IT'S ON: *FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. PUTS IT ON THE LINE AGAINST CANELO ALVAREZ*

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LUCAS MATTHYSSE'S KO OF LAMONT PETERSON LIFTED HIM TO STAR STATUS

MANNY PACQUIAO

FILIPINO ICON IS LATE TO JUMP ON THE DRUG-TESTING BANDWAGON

CARL FROCH

STANDARD BEARER OF BRITISH BOXING IS ADMIRED BUT NOT REVERED

DANIEL GEALE

AUSSIE MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER IS A CLASS ACT – AND TALENTED

HALL OF FAME

A LOOK BACK AT A MEMORABLE 2013 INDUCTION WEEKEND IN CANASTOTA

SEPTEMBER 2013

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Scott Heavey/Getty Images

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GONE, NOT FORGOTTEN
Residents of Canastota, N.Y. – the site of the International Boxing Hall of Fame – celebrate the life of favorite son Carmen Basilio. **GO TO:** http://bit.ly/14oFUIB or scan the QR Code.

TRAVELIN' MAN RETURNS TO CANASTOTA
RingTV.com contributor Lee Groves journeyed to the International Boxing Hall of Fame induction ceremonies for the 21st time. This is the first of three parts. **GO TO:** http://bit.ly/19Zd5jJ or scan the QR Code.

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COVER PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

 By **Michael Rosenthal**

WE'RE NOT BEING FOOLED

The fight between Carl Froch and Mikkel Kessler was billed as a title-unification bout. It wasn't.

THE RING and anyone with common sense recognizes only one "champion" for each of the four major sanctioning bodies, meaning the WBA's "regular" title – which Froch took from Kessler – is about as valuable to us as a WWE belt. The WBA actually calls Alexander Povetkin a heavyweight "world champion." Uh, no. The WBA champ is someone named Wladimir Klitschko.

Sanctioning body officials think they're fooling you. They think you actually buy this garbage when in fact no one with any knowledge of the sport's underbelly does.

We have more than enough "champions" as it is. If you allow each alphabet organization one titleholder in each division, that amounts to 68 total. That's an absurd number, one that so waters down championships that they are rendered almost meaningless.

These new-fangled titles, such as the WBA's "super, regular, unified and interim," bring the already-ridiculous figure even higher.

And the absurdity doesn't end there. Even those we accept as legitimate major titles are often highly questionable.

Example I: Did Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and Saul "Canelo" Alvarez deserve to become top contenders so early in their careers? Of course not. That happened because the WBC stood to make a lot of money in sanctioning fees (typically a percentage of the purse) if the developing Mexicans won that organization's title. It wasn't based on merit.

Example II: The IBF would have us believe that Devon Alexander – its welterweight titleholder – is the best in a division ruled by Floyd Mayweather Jr. He isn't a world champion; he's champion of a bogus list put together by businessmen who are far more interested in profits than the integrity of the sport.

Alexander should toss the belt; it has no value.

The sad thing is that the sanctioning bodies are laughing at us all the way to the bank. In a sense, they ARE making fools of us. We know their titles are tainted but we acknowledge them anyway, making us accomplices in their unscrupulous deeds.

THE RING does so because we feel the fans – as well as the fighters and their handlers – still attach some meaning to the fancy belts. Every fighter still dreams of winning a world title, even a watered-down one. However, we offer our recognition of the alphabet titles with reluctance, particularly because we feel our own ratings are the most legitimate. The sanctioning-body titles are part of boxing whether we like it or not.

Our duty as journalists and fans is to remind everyone once in a while that we're not stupid. We don't need the misleading sanctioning bodies to tell us who the best fighters are.

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Terence Crawford's sixth-round knockout of Alejandro Sanabria on the Mikey Garcia-Juan Manuel Lopez card on HBO enhanced his reputation as a legitimate lightweight prospect.

Marcos Maidana (right) surveys the damage he has inflicted en route to his sixth-round knockout of Josesito Lopez on June 8.

Naoki Fukuda

EVERLAST
MARCELO ROSSINI

RING featherweight champ Mikey Garcia makes a direct hit on the face of Juan Manuel Lopez, whose fourth-round demise might signal the end of his run as an elite fighter.

Naoki Fukuda

COME OUT WRITING

UNFAIR TO RIGONDEAUX

I thought your writing around Guillermo Rigondeaux's masterful performance against Nonito Donaire in the July 2013 issue was disgraceful.

You are a boxing magazine, indeed the self-professed "Bible of Boxing." The art of boxing is hit and not get hit and Rigondeaux was masterful against a guy you had in your Top 5 pound for pound going into the fight. It was a fantastic display of ring generalship and the stats showed Rigondeaux threw more punches than Donaire. So much for him just running.

Donaire walked forward but threw little because he felt Rigo's power early and was hesitant from then on. Look at the effects of a single Rigo punch in the last round on Donaire's face and tell me again he's a negative fighter.

You are boxing magazine, not a brawling or fighting magazine. If you cannot appreciate how masterful that performance was, then I am bemused.

Kevin Clarke
Burnley, England

A GREAT MATCHUP

Manny Pacquiao vs. Brandon Rios (on Nov. 23) is a great fight for the fans. Their styles will clash in an all out brawl from beginning until the end. Pacquiao has a lot to prove after his knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez. Rios is coming back after his first loss to Mike Alvarado, which makes this a must win fight for both warriors. I give the edge to the Pacman due to his experience and skill. Rios will come out swinging and Pacquiao will counter him. By the late rounds, Pacquiao will break him down and get the TKO victory. But I don't underestimate Rios; he could surprise the boxing world with his power; he could hurt Pacquiao. It will be a great fight.

Luis Guzman
Atlantic City, N.J.

PACQUIAO-MAYWEATHER?

Ever since Manny Pacquiao's destruction last year, you guys have basically stopped writing and speculating about a matchup with Floyd Mayweather Jr. While I clearly understand that the potential fight has lost a huge amount of its attraction since Pacquiao lost in such a decisive manner, I still believe this super fight would generate a massive amount of interest. Pacquiao is still an elite boxer (even with the recent knockout) and Mayweather is still the pound-for-pound king. Perhaps Pacquiao would agree to the Olympic-style drug testing now that he knows he doesn't have the same bargaining power as Mayweather. Perhaps he realizes that a big win against Mayweather would erase whatever happened in the Juan Manuel Marquez fight. I think he'll be more willing and open to Mayweather's demands, which could make it easier for the fight to happen.

Joey Gomez
Las Vegas

Editor's note: Pacquiao has agreed to strict drug-testing for his fight against Brandon Rios.

GEALE FORCE

G'day. Where do you place our two-belt, unified middleweight champion Daniel Geale in with the current middleweights around the world? There is always a lot of talk about Gennady Golovkin, Sergio Martinez and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., but Geale seems to never be mentioned. He accomplished something extraordinary in going to Germany not once but twice and defeating the then-world champions (Sebastian Sylvester and Felix Sturm). I believe Geale would be clever to try and stand toe to toe with Golovkin and would beat him over 12 rounds. And he would be a tough matchup against Martinez, who looks like Father Time might be catching up on him.

Sebastian Hoffman
Maitland, New South Wales, Australia

Editor's note: THE RING rates Geale No. 1, behind only champion Martinez. We believe he can compete with any middleweight in the world. We'll get an even clearer picture of him when he fights Darren Barker on Aug. 17. And check out our feature story on Geale on Page 68 of this issue.

HOLDING PATTERN

Something has to be done about the amount of holding permitted during bouts. Depending on the referee, a fighter who just wants to survive long enough to get a paycheck could get away with bear hugging his opponent for most of the fight. There needs to be an outright ban on holding or at least a maximum number of times a fighter can hold during the bout. After all, whether you can take as well as give a good shot is a good measure of who is the better man.

Hans Westberg
Laguna Woods, Calif.

TURNER OVERLOOKED

The most controversial inductee in the International Boxing Hall of Fame this year was the blood-and-guts Arturo Gatti. Hardly in question are those who were not inducted. I feel the great Gil Turner deserves enshrinement into the Hall. Turner tangled with and bested some of the greatest warriors of his time. He defeated the likes of Hall of Famers Ike Williams and Beau Jack, and handed the controversial Johnny Saxton his first loss. Turner also fought Kid Gavilan to a standstill before succumbing in the 11th round to the Cuban legend. Some say he declined after that bout but he went on to win one of three bruising fights with Gene Fullmer, another Hall of Famer. Based on his credentials and crowd-pleasing style, an adequate case can be made for Gil Turner to be recognized as one of boxing's finest. He deserves that recognition.

Anthony Trudeau
Philadelphia

Editor's note: Turner (56-19-2, 35 KOs) was a Philadelphian who fought between 1950 and 1958. He died at 65 in 1996.

WRITE TO THE RING!

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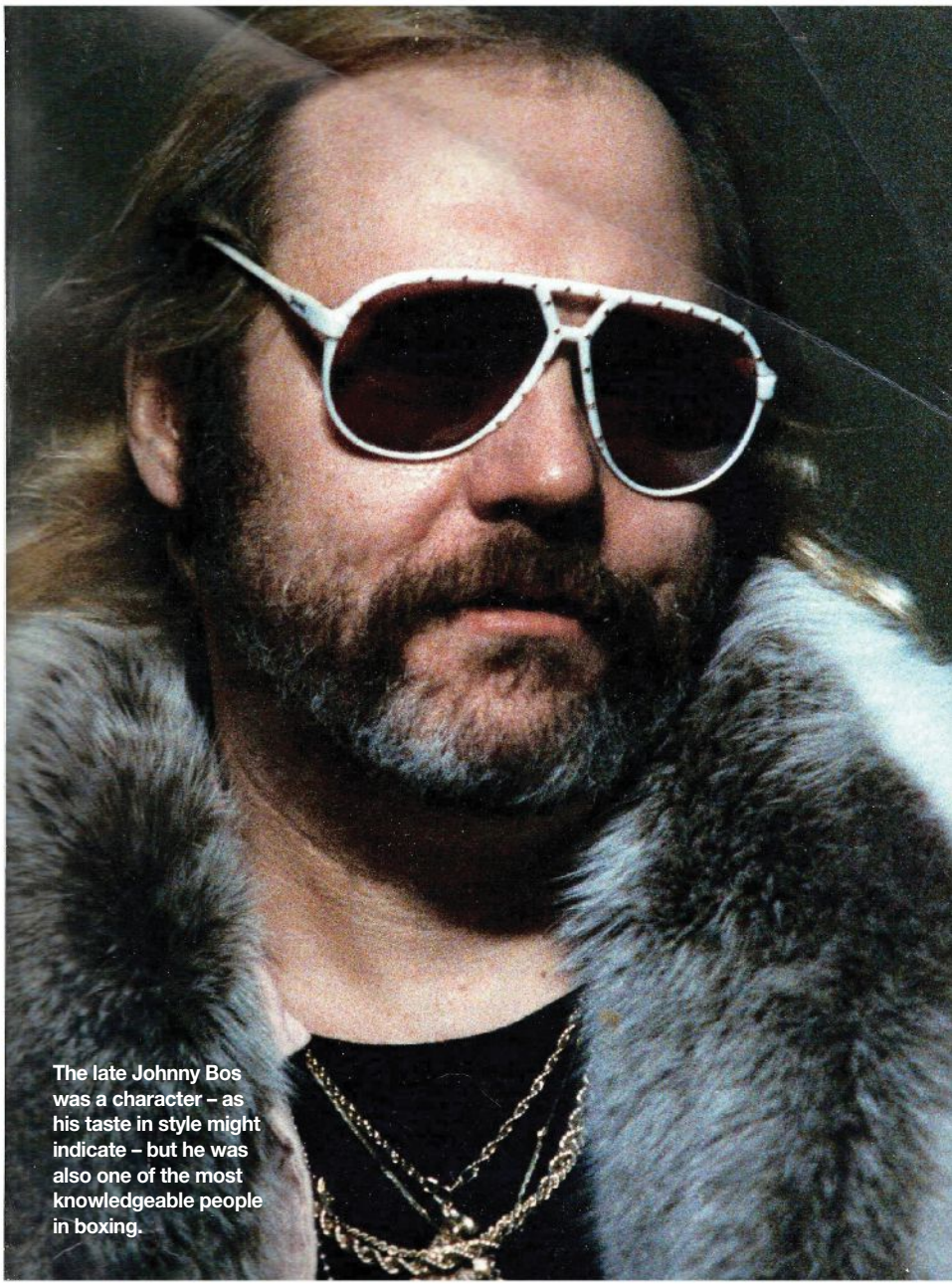
JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**

BY THOMAS HAUSER

AN ORIGINAL: JOHNNY BOS

1952-2013



The late Johnny Bos was a character – as his taste in style might indicate – but he was also one of the most knowledgeable people in boxing.

Courtesy of Steve Canton

Johnny Bos, who died on May 11 at his home in Florida at the much-too-young age of 61, was a Runyonesque character.

Bos was a large man with shaggy, dirty-blond hair, 6-feet, 3-inches tall, whose weight fluctuated between 225 and 300 pounds. He was partial to long fur coats and bore a faint resemblance to Hulk Hogan.

He was a boxing guy. Other boxing insiders describe him as one of the most knowledgeable boxing people they ever met. "The go-to guy for a lot of people," Hall-of-Fame matchmaker Bruce Trampler called him.

Bos fit between the cracks of what other people do in boxing. He was part matchmaker, part manager and part booking agent. "I manage the managers," was how he described his role.

Mike Jones and Dennis Rappaport relied on Bos to select opponents for Gerry Cooney and Billy Costello. Bill Cayton and Jim Jacobs used him for the young Mike Tyson. Mickey Duff and Jarvis Astaire trusted him on imports to England. Tracy Harris Patterson and Joey Gamache traveled roadmaps to championships courtesy of Bos.

Bos worked his magic before Boxrec.com and YouTube made fighter videos and fight results readily available at the click of a mouse. He knew who the fighters were and how their styles matched up. The opponents he found didn't pull out of fights at the last minute and were what they were supposed to be when they showed up.

"He was my first mentor," matchmaker Ron Katz said. "I was a kid doing shows in White Plains when Johnny took me under his wing. Night after night, we were on the phone until the wee small hours of the morning, talking boxing."

"Johnny was one of my teachers," added promoter and former

HBO matchmaker Lou DiBella. "There are matchmakers all over the world who were influenced by him. He loved boxing. He loved fighters. He was a hard-core blue-collar boxing guy. And he was incredibly generous with his knowledge."

"He'd do anything to be part of boxing," said Bob Goodman, whose resume includes stints as Don King's right-hand man and president of Madison Square Garden Boxing. "He loved boxing so much."

I met Bos in 1984 when I was researching a book about the sport and business of boxing entitled *The Black Lights*. We got together for lunch at a diner near his home to talk about the sweet science.

"I'll have the usual," he told the waitress.

I don't remember what I had for lunch that day. I do remember what Johnny ate. "The usual" was four hotdogs with sauerkraut.

At the same meal, Johnny told me that he refused to eat vegetables because they gave him indigestion. "I don't consider sauerkraut a vegetable even if it was once cabbage," he noted.

Johnny ate too much, drank too much and partied too much. There were too many drugs.

"I started taking care of myself," he told me years later. "But I started too late."

He was also independent, possibly to a fault. He wasn't the sort of person who fits within a structure and, as a result, never found a long-tenured position with a promoter.

"Johnny was a terrible businessman," Katz said. "He took people at their word instead of asking them for a written contract. Some of the people he dealt with were straight with him, but others screwed him."

For years, Bos was an integral part of the New York boxing scene. In the mid-1990s, he fell on hard times, economically and in terms of his health, and moved to Florida. Things didn't work out in the Sunshine State so he returned to The Big Apple and helped build the careers of Paulie Malignaggi and Yuri Foreman.

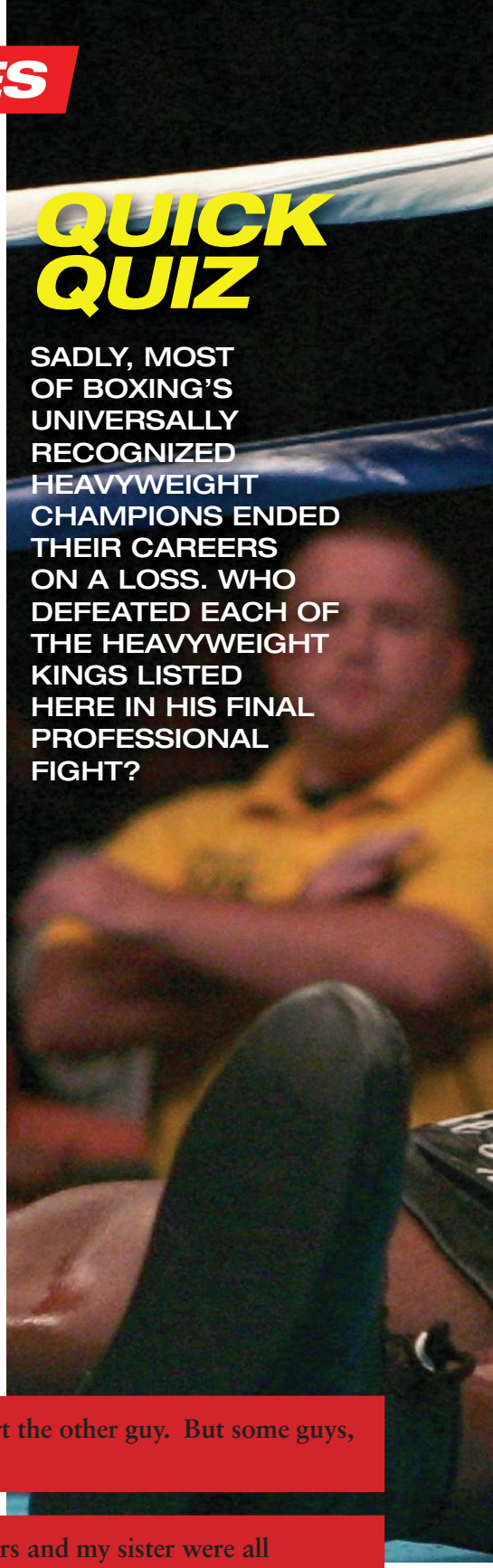
Then things turned sour again.

"I love New York, but New York don't love me," Johnny said.

In 2008, the struggle to make ends meet and congestive heart failure forced him back to Florida.

"I knew he was in poor health," Katz said. "But his death is a real shock. Johnny was like a cartoon superhero to me. And cartoon superheroes aren't supposed to die."

Johnny Bos might not be missed by a lot of people. But the people who miss him will miss him a lot.



QUICK QUIZ

SADLY, MOST OF BOXING'S UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONS ENDED THEIR CAREERS ON A LOSS. WHO DEFEATED EACH OF THE HEAVYWEIGHT KINGS LISTED HERE IN HIS FINAL PROFESSIONAL FIGHT?

SOME THOUGHTS ON BOXING

Micky Ward: "When you're fighting, you really don't want to hurt the other guy. But some guys, you wouldn't mind hurting a little bit."

Lou Savarese: "My dad didn't want me to fight. My two brothers and my sister were all college graduates. I was the baby, and he just did not want me to fight. Now I know what he went through. I come home and my kid's got a mosquito bite, and I'm freaking out."

George Foreman: "At a certain point in a man's life, he looks ridiculous running down a road."

A. JAMES CORBETT
B. JAMES JEFFRIES
C. MARVIN HART
D. TOMMY BURNS
E. JACK JOHNSON
F. JESS WILLARD
G. JACK DEMPSEY
H. MAX SCHMELING
I. JACK SHARKEY
J. PRIMO CARNERA
K. MAX BAER
L. JOE LOUIS
M. EZZARD CHARLES
N. JERSEY JOE WALCOTT
O. FLOYD PATTERSON
P. MUHAMMAD ALI
Q. MICHAEL SPINKS
R. GEORGE FOREMAN
S. MIKE TYSON

Who put Mike Tyson in this position in the former champion's last fight?

PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/Getty Images

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS

A. JAMES JEFFRIES KO 10
B. JACK JOHNSON KO 15
C. CARL MORRIS KO 3
D. JOE BECKETT KO 7
E. BILL HARTWELL KO 7
F. LUIS FIRPO KO 8
G. GENE TUNNEY W10
H. RICHARD VOGT W10
I. JOE LOUIS KO 3
J. LUIGI MUSINA W8
K. LOU NOVA KO 8
L. ROCKY MARCIANO KO 8
M. ALVIN GREEN W10
N. ROCKY MARCIANO KO 1
O. MUHAMMAD ALI KO 7
P. TREVOR BERBICK W10
Q. MIKE TYSON KO 1
R. SHANNON BRIGGS W12
S. KEVIN MCBRIDE KO 6

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Thomas Hauser on Sports: Remembering the Journey*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their counterparts today. This month: The great Mexican featherweight champion Salvador Sanchez, who died at 23 in car crash in 1982, to another young Mexican star – 22-year-old Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, THE RING junior middleweight champ.

SALVADOR SANCHEZ fought …

Azumah Nelson, who fought …

Genaro Hernandez, who fought …

Floyd Mayweather Jr., who fought …

Shane Mosley, who fought …

SAUL ALVAREZ

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

By **Anson Wainwright**

NATHAN CLEVERLY

WBO LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER FROM WALES

MUSIC: When I'm training I like R&B. It's slow and steady. That's good to train to. ★ **CAR:** My dream car is an Audi R8. I love small, sporty-looking cars. Maybe a couple of fights' time. ★ **FOOD:** I'd always have to say spaghetti Bolognese. It's healthy, full of protein. It's my pre-fight ritual. ★ **TATTOOS:** I recently had two new tattoos. I've gone with the religious theme: Jesus arm wrestling the devil. You've got the good fighting the bad, which is pretty much how your mind works really. The other one is with Jesus on the cross and a few doves representing peace. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** I've got an awful lot of respect for David Beckham to play (soccer) at the elite level so consistently for so many years. ★ **MOVIE:** I would say *Kickboxer*, featuring Jean-Claude Van Damme. That's such a good action movie with a great story: a guy who had a troubled background and became kickboxing champion. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** *Pro Evolution Soccer*.

SCOTT QUIGG

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT CONTENDER FROM ENGLAND

MUSIC: I'm into all different types of music, from Motown, R&B, pop to country, but I'm a big fan of Katherine Jenkins, the classical singer. ★ **CAR:** I've got a Mercedes C220 coupe. ★ **FOOD:** I love all kinds of food but would have to say Mexican. ★ **TATTOOS:** I've got one tattoo on my right forearm. It's my surname. I thought I best get it put on in case my defense is a bit leaky and I take too many shots and forget my name. I had the tattoo done when I was 14. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** I was a very good footballer as a youngster. I really thought I was gonna make it as a professional but I got knocked back from several professional clubs for my size, so I thought I best find something else that I was good at. So I would say David Beckham for his achievements, not only from football but off the pitch as well. ★ **MOVIE:** *Pretty Woman*. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** *FIFA* football game.

JAMIE MCDONNELL

IBF BANTAMWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER FROM ENGLAND

MUSIC: R&B. ★ **CAR:** At the moment I've got a Mercedes 10 plate that I've got through sponsorship, but I wouldn't mind a flash motor like a Porsche or a Range Rover. ★ **FOOD:** Chinese. ★ **TATTOOS:** One on my bum. It's supposed to read "Spooning leads to Forking" but it's spelled wrong; it says "Spooning leads to Folking!" ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** I would probably say David Beckham, 'cause he's a decent bloke and does good things for charity. ★ **MOVIE:** *50 First Dates*. I'm not into gangster ones. I like chick flicks. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** *Call of Duty*.

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Good

One of the most exhilarating things in boxing is a breakthrough moment or fight. We recently saw Mikey Garcia emerge as a veritable star with his beat down of tough, tested Orlando Salido. We saw Guillermo Rigondeaux do the same with his dominating victory over Nonito Donaire. Lucas Matthysse finally shed years of frustration with his stunning KO of Lamont Peterson. And we saw it again this past month when Adonis Stevenson, little more than a prospect, burst onto the light heavyweight scene by stopping Chad Dawson to win THE RING championship. These weren't merely exciting victories. They introduced us to new, compelling figures who breathed much-needed life into the sport.

Bad

I don't believe Mikey Garcia intentionally failed to make the 126-pound limit for his fight against Juan Manuel Lopez on June 15. Still, his offense is evidence of a serious problem in the sport: B-side fighters have no choice but to face overweight A-siders because they can't afford to give up the payday, which creates an unfair advantage. A solution might be an overweight limit, which if exceeded would require cancelation of the fight. Perhaps that could be 1 percent of the designated weight. The offending fighter would still be fined and lose his title on the scale but he would be allowed to fight. If he or she exceeds the limit, then the fight would be off.

Worse

One of the saddest things in sports is wasted potential. I was thinking of James Kirkland when I wrote that. The former junior middleweight contender has the goods to become an important fighter – namely fire in his belly and tremendous power – but is prone to self destruction. The convicted felon and two-time inmate was arrested last month for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend, which could lead to more jail time. As it is, Kirkland hasn't fought in 16 months in part because he is entangled in a legal mess with his former handlers. After his latest offense, we might not see him climb through the ropes any time soon – if ever. Kirkland has "what if" written all over him.

Sanchez: The Ring Magazine/Getty Images; Matthysse and Alvarez: Naoki Fukuda; Cleverly, Quigg And Mcdonnell: Scott Heavey/Getty Images

A MONTHLY BOXING LIST:

TEN

This month: Most fighters – even the best – seem to end their careers with a loss. Here are 10 who said goodbye with their hands raised.

MICHAEL CARBAJAL, 1999: Stopped Jorge Arce in the 11th round of a fight he was losing badly

BILLY CONN, 1948: KO'd journeyman Jackie Lyons two fights after Joe Louis won their rematch

KHAOSAI GALAXY, 1991: Outpointed Armando Castro and then retired as 115-pound champ

LARRY HOLMES, 2002: Decisioned Eric "Butterbean" Esch in a forgettable 10-rounder

RICARDO LOPEZ, 2001: KO'd Zolani Petelo to retain his 108-pound title and remain unbeaten

ROCKY MARCIANO, 1955: Retired undefeated and as champ after KO'ing Archie Moore in 9

CARLOS MONZON, 1977: Left boxing as unified middleweight champ after beating Rodrigo Valdes

JIMMY MCLARNIN, 1936: Outpointed fellow future Hall of Famer Lou Ambers

GENE TUNNEY, 1928: Retired as heavyweight champ after outpointing Tom Heeney

MYUNG WOO YUH, 1993: Retired as 108-pound champ after a decision over Yuichi Hosono

RING POLL

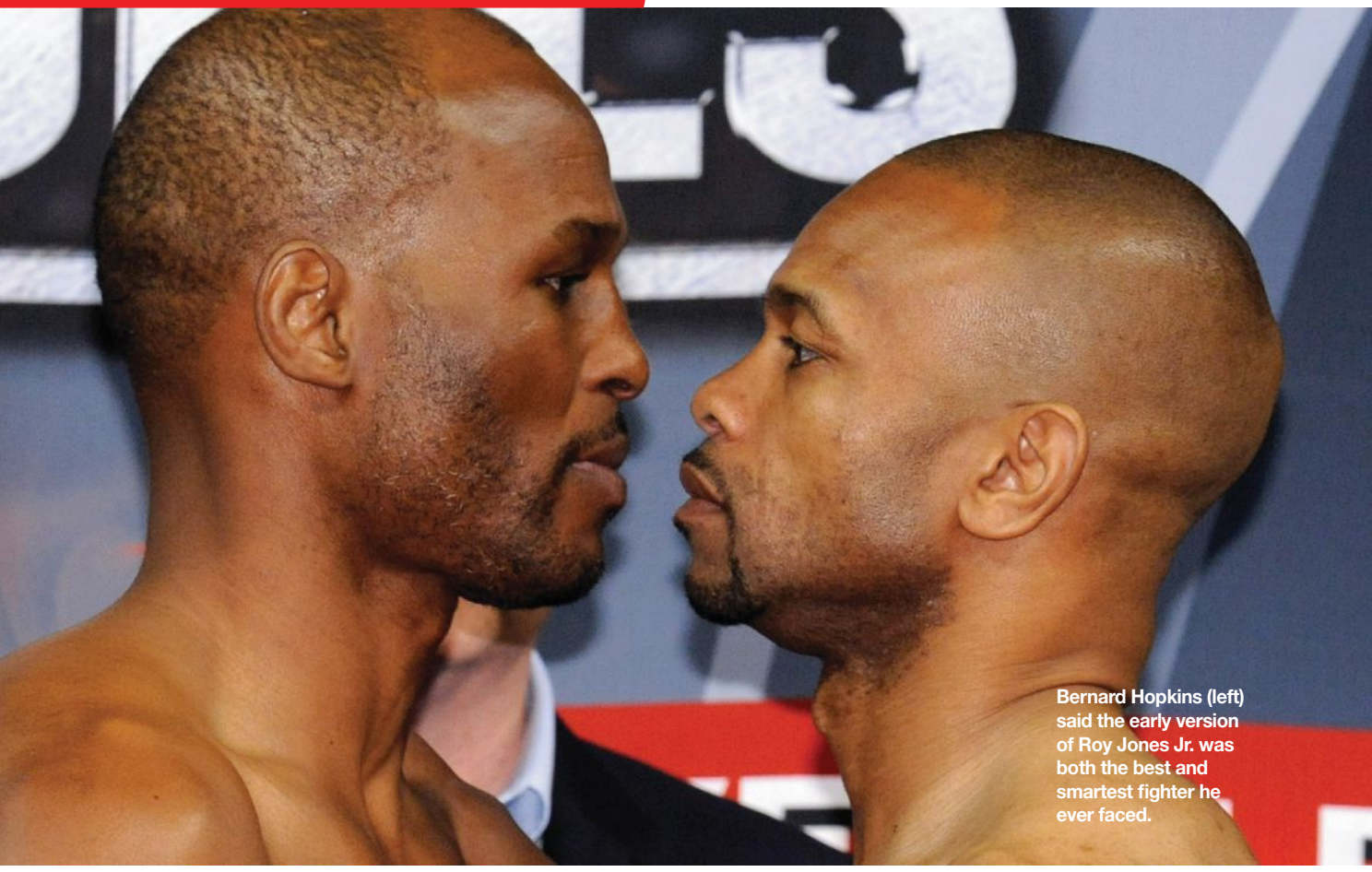
A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

Stunning knockouts by Lucas Matthysse and Adonis Stevenson recently raised the question: Who is the best puncher in boxing? Here are the results.

THE PERCENTAGES:

Lucas Matthysse
54.9
Gennady Golovkin
25.5
Adonis Stevenson
10.5
Marcos Maidana
7.8
Sergei Kovalev
1.3

***Note:** 6,128 readers voted.*



Bernard Hopkins (left) said the early version of Roy Jones Jr. was both the best and smartest fighter he ever faced.

BERNARD HOPKINS

By **Anson Wainwright**

Few would have predicted early in Bernard Hopkins' career that the former resident of Graterford Penitentiary would go on to become one of the finest middleweights in boxing history.

A 23-year-old Hopkins turned pro in 1988, the same year he was released after serving almost five years behind bars. His first fight was against Clinton Mitchell as a light heavyweight, and he lost.

Sixteen months passed before he re-entered the ring, this time as a middleweight. He won his next 22 fights before facing Roy Jones Jr. for the vacant IBF crown. That contest ended in his second defeat, but Hopkins quietly went about building his craft and won the vacated title two years later.

The self-styled "Executioner" would go on to unify all the major titles and become the undisputed middleweight king, surpassing Carlos Monzon's legendary mark of 16 title defenses with 20 of his own. He also became the longest reigning 160-pounder in history with an incredible run of 10 years and two months.

After losing two questionable decisions to Jermain Taylor, B-Hop headed to 175 where he continued to break records and upset younger rivals such as Winky Wright and Kelly Pavlik, first becoming the oldest man to capture a world title when he beat Jean Pascal at age 46 in 2011. He extended his own record earlier this year by outboxing Tavoris Cloud for the IBF strap.

Over the course of 30 world title fights, Hopkins has been recognized by THE RING Magazine as 2001 Fighter of the Year and 2010 Comeback of the Year. His almost pathological zest for training marks him as one of the last of a dying breed.

Today, heading towards his 49th birthday, he is a partner in Golden Boy Promotions and an active world titleholder with a record of 53-6-2 (32 knockouts). Hopkins discussed with THE RING the best opponents he has faced throughout his career.

★

BEST OVERALL

» **Roy Jones Jr.**

Early career Roy Jones Jr. – speed, reflexes, unorthodox, that type of thing.

BEST BOXER

» **Jones**

He was an all-around thing – best

Hopkins/Jones Jr: Ethan Miller/Getty Images; Hopkins/De La Hoya: Jed Jacobsohn/Getty Images

boxer, best defense, offense.

BEST JAB

» **Oscar De La Hoya**

That's why I stayed away from it. You know what was special about it? He threw it! No, he had a good jab. Seriously, I had to get past it to go to the ribs.

BEST DEFENSE

» **Winky Wright**

He's known for it. I called him the turtle, 'cause when a turtle feels danger he sticks his head in and he's safe until he sticks it out.

BEST CHIN

» **Robert Allen**

We fought three times and he went the distance three times and I nailed him a couple of times and he looked at me. But he's a tough Marine, so no surprise. But he has an iron chin.

BEST PUNCHER

» **Antwun Echols**

He was clubbing, not swift. Thumping. Also Felix Trinidad, but that's all. He was really one dimensional. He had great success fighting one-dimensional people. … That's not a knock on him but when you run into a Bernard Hopkins, who's more than one dimensional, then you got a problem.

FASTEST HANDS

» **De La Hoya**

I think De La Hoya was a little lighter in weight and he's more of a combination puncher, so he was fast. Roy was fast but he was more of a one- or two-punch (fighter), unless he got you hurt and then he'd do all that flash stuff. But De La Hoya was a combination puncher with speed. Joe (Calzaghe) had a lot of speed. He was one of those guys, he threw punches … they weren't meaningful, powerful punches but he threw enough. I always joke and say about Joe, it's like when you walk through a beehive and they're all around you and sting you, there's so many stinging you to a point they overwhelm you and you just run. Anybody that's been stung by bees you try to knock off one or two then you just run out of there.

FASTEST FEET

» **De La Hoya**

I had to chase De La Hoya down. He came up from junior middleweight, he was the smaller guy, I was the bigger guy and by him being smaller and moving it went nine rounds. I had to make him fight, smother him until I got the shot in.

SMARTEST

» **Jones**

He was smart enough to neutralize my best weapons and smart enough to not get hit by my big shots. Even though I got my shots in he wouldn't get hit by more than one. Like if I got one in … and that's the thing about fighting unique guys … if a guy lands that one shot, normally there's another coming behind that. If one misses, there's more coming. That's like money. So Roy was one of those guys if you hit him once, take that and run with it. If you got him three times, ohhh, my god! You saw what Antonio Tarver did to him, or Glen Johnson. Even though it was later, it tells you if you get him more than once you can get him out of there.

STRONGEST

» **Tavoris Cloud**

He was a bull, but he wasn't smart.

Hopkins took Oscar De La Hoya out with a single body blow in 2004 but he had respect for the Golden Boy afterward.

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CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

Mandy Domingues

Height: 5-foot-5
Weight: 108 pounds
Measurements: 32-24-35
Stance: Orthodox
Favorite Boxer: Being from Massachusetts, Micky Ward, but right now Floyd Mayweather Jr.
Hometown: Fall River, Mass.
Current Location: Las Vegas
Where you've seen her: Commercial – Reebok Simply Tone. Movies – *The Fighter, Here Comes The Boom*. Magazines – *The Ultimate, SOCO, Blast, Ultimate MMA, SNI Calendar, Sports Illustrated.*
Booking Info:
Mandy.Domingues@yahoo.com

Dave Alan

Mandy Domingues

Dave Alan

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

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DO YOU WANT TO BE A RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH?

submit photos and bio to **ringcardgirl@sepublications.com**

Dave Alan

The left hand delivered by Adonis Stevenson undoubtedly will have a profound effect on his career and that of Chad Dawson.

Graham Hughes, AP

DAWSON'S COSTLY MISTAKE

He'll have a hard time bouncing back after a first-round KO loss to Stevenson

By **David Greisman**

Chad Dawson has switched trainers more times than Hugh Hefner has switched wives, and none of those corner changes prepared Dawson for a lesson Hefner learned a long time ago: If you don't protect yourself ahead of time, you'll end up with nothing.

One mistake is all it takes, as we learned from the end of Antonio Tarver's commentary gig at Showtime. One moment can bring everything crashing down, like the one left hand that put Roy Jones Jr. into his tremendous fall from grace, like the single southpaw shot that directed Ricky Hatton toward retirement and addiction, and like the lone left hand that took the light heavyweight championship — and possibly much more — from Dawson.

The man who threw that last punch, Adonis Stevenson, might just have scored two knockouts in one night, landing what could end up being a finish-

ing blow to Dawson's career in a fight that was barely as long as a Teddy Atlas ramble. The damage is lasting, and it isn't just the loss of his top spot, and it isn't solely attributable to what happened with Stevenson.

Dawson can only blame himself, and not just for dropping his right glove to throw an ill-timed and ill-placed hook to the body while Stevenson was already delivering the decisive left hand from close range. That blame falls on a boxer whose ability to fight his way back to the A-side of a main event is now questionable, a harsh indictment given that this is a world where Bernard Hopkins still headlines fights that drone on longer than B-Hop answering a reporter's question.

It's amazing to think this would be the situation for a fighter who has been willing to face anyone and travel anywhere. Dawson beat Tomasz Adamek, took two victories apiece over Glen Johnson and Antonio Tarver and had a pair of bouts with Hopkins. He went to Montreal for his loss to Jean Pascal, a win over Adrian Diaconu, and this Stevenson fight. He also went to Oakland, and the 168-pound division, for his loss to Andre Ward.

But he has never connected with fans. His few entertaining fights saw him dragged into battle; he'd prefer to box safely and dispassionately. He has rarely been featured in his home region of New England, except during his days as a young prospect. His preference for a private family life is to his detriment in a personality-driven sport. And he is not aligned with Top Rank or Golden Boy, which means his promoter, Gary Shaw, will need to work even harder to get him back on the air.

His name could still prove valuable to other titleholders and contenders in America and abroad, though the reward is only worth it if the risk is minimized, if they believe Dawson to be damaged and done. Otherwise, if they feel his loss to Stevenson was a fluke, then ironically Chad Dawson will be left even worse off. He will be a fighter who isn't shot, but can't get one.

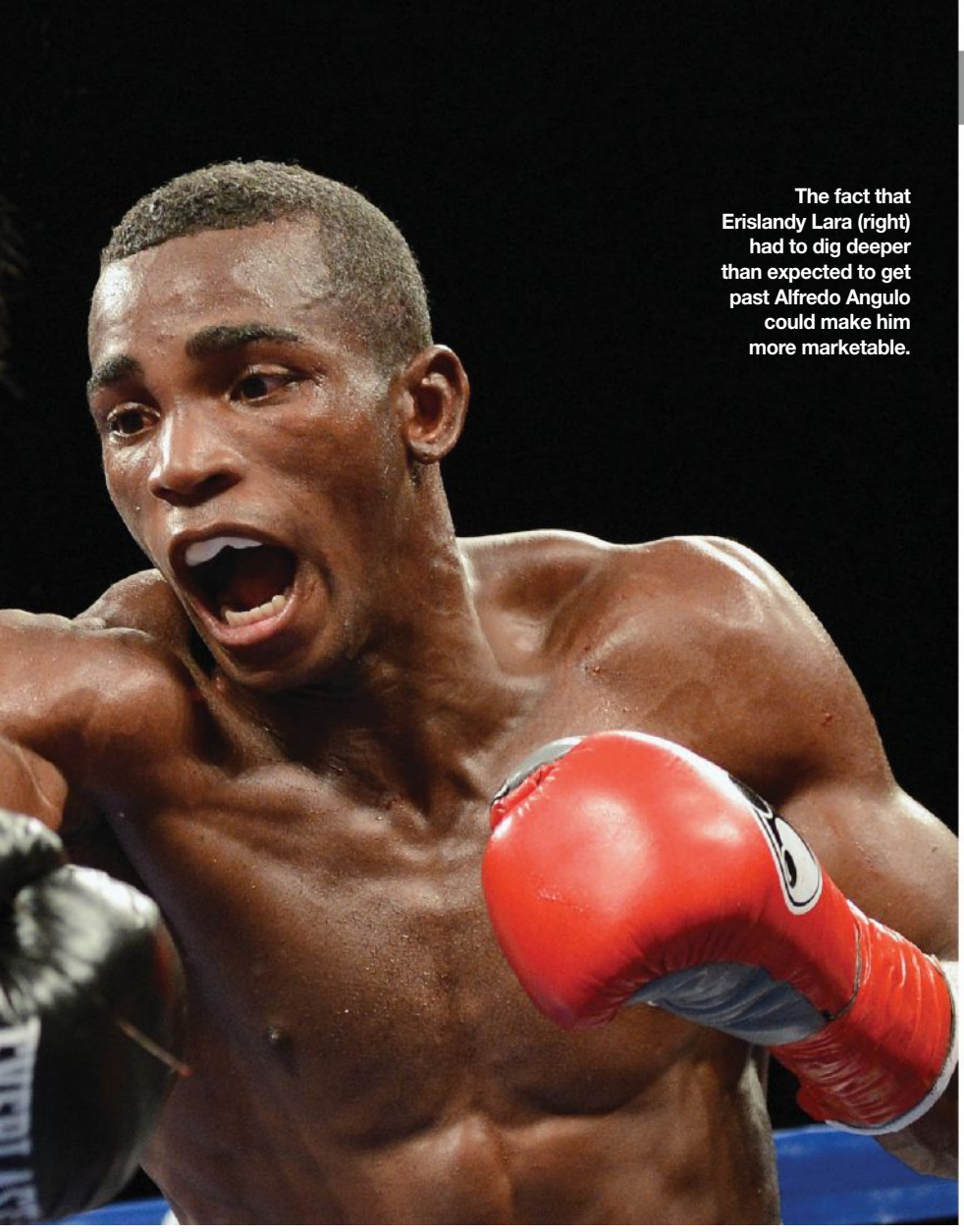
★

Then again, the allure of being in the big leagues quickly loses its luster if you get stuck at the end of the bench. That's what happened with Lucas Matthysse and Erislandy Lara, who often were only featured in the boxing equivalent of garbage time. They were not the favored children in their stables, settling for the scraps of lesser shows and paydays, kept away from their promoter's cash cows in their respective divisions.

What they might find unfair is otherwise unsurprising.

There was little reason to put Lara in with Canelo Alvarez or Miguel Cotto. It was better to protect stars with a proven ability to fill arenas and draw ratings. Perhaps the only reason Lara was matched up with Alfredo Angulo this June was because it was a chance for Golden Boy to see whether either was worthy of the spotlight. Both rose to the occasion, with Lara stopping

Naoki Fukuda



The fact that Erislandy Lara (right) had to dig deeper than expected to get past Alfredo Angulo could make him more marketable.

Angulo in a back-and-forth battle between boxer and brawler.

Lara cannot allow himself to squander this opportunity. This may be a sport based on hitting and not getting hit, but this is also a business in which fighters can win bouts but lose fans. He should follow the example set by Juan Manuel Marquez, who was long respected, yet avoided and ignored, all until he began to exchange and entertain.

Lara should also look at what Matthysse has done. It used to be that there was little benefit in Golden Boy putting the Argentine banger in against Danny Garcia or Amir Khan, not when Matthysse was still a relatively unknown commodity except to boxing's core observers. The rest remembered him best for his close, controversial losses to Zab Judah and Devon Alexander.

And then Matthysse capitalized on his four Showtime appearances, battering and knocking out his opponents and then making surprisingly easy work of Lamont Peterson. There is now a greater demand for Golden Boy to make Garcia-Matthysse — and there is now more money to be made by all involved.

It's not just about the boxing. It's about the box office.

It also doesn't hurt that Lara and Matthysse are now with powerful advisor Al Haymon.

The sporting world isn't too different from the working world. What you've done can matter less than who you know.

★

But it's still a shame when the business taints the boxing.

At its most basic essence, this sport is about pitting one man against the other to find out whose punches are stronger, whose chin is sturdier, whose hands are faster and whose strategy is wiser.

But too many are willing to sacrifice physically because of what that means for them fiscally.

Manny Pacquiao's wins over Miguel Cotto and Antonio Margarito were impressive. They would've been even more so had Cotto and Margarito not accepted catchweights. And Floyd Mayweather Jr. will deserve accolades should he beat 154-pound champion Canelo Alvarez. It would be better, though, if he cared less about throwing his weight around in negotiations, because the 152-pound catchweight will be the first thing his doubters mention should he beat Alvarez.

Alvarez says that dropping the extra two pounds won't matter, but of course he will claim that ahead of time; it's better not to instill seeds of self-doubt. And of course Mayweather believes that Alvarez will be further disadvantaged. This isn't about the naturally smaller Mayweather attempting to have more even footing against a bigger opponent. After all, he faced Oscar De La Hoya and Miguel Cotto at the normal junior-middleweight limit.

In the end, though, it's not the doubters that matter to Mayweather. It's the dollars. It's about the zeroes at the end of his paycheck — and the zero at the end of his record.

By **Brian Harty**

James Kirkland had another run in with the law in June.

RE-LAPSE OF REASON

Trouble continues to find **James Kirkland**, who was jailed for assault on June 15 in Austin, Texas. The junior middlweight contender allegedly grabbed his girlfriend by the neck twice while arguing about another woman (reported to be the mother of his child), whom they'd just encountered at a club. The girlfriend called police and Kirkland was arrested and held on $5,000 bail.

Kirkland, 29, spent 30 months in prison for a 2003 armed robbery conviction and then returned to jail in 2009 on firearm charges. Released after a year, his comeback was first stalled by a bewildering KO loss to Nobhiro Ishida and then further by a shoulder injury, lawsuits involving his team and a rejected offer of $1 million to face Canelo Alvarez.

Kirkland (31-1, 27 knockouts) is one of the most exciting fighters in the world but, as time goes on, he seems less and less likely to realize his potential.

In a similar but even more baffling story, former WBA welterweight titleholder **James Page**, aka the "button-down bandit," was arrested for allegedly robbing eight banks around the San Francisco Bay Area over a three-month span. The 42-year-old Page had just last year finished an 11-year sentence for bank robbery and was making moves toward a comeback.

An opera based on the life of former two-division titleholder **Emile Griffith**, called *Champion*, premiered on June 15 in St. Louis. Griffith pounded Benny Paret into a coma at Madison Square Garden in 1962 and the Cuban died 10 days later. In 1992,Griffith, a self-described bisexual, was himself nearly beaten to death after leaving a gay bar in New York. Composer Terence Blanchard said he was inspired by something Griffith said in a 2008 biography: "I kill a man and most people understand and forgive me. However, I love a man, and to so many people this is an unforgivable sin; this makes me an evil person."

A documentary featuring some of the last interviews with multiple-division titleholder **Johnny Tapia**, who died last year, premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival in June. Lou DiBella and 50 Cent are among the executive producers of the film, called ***Tapia.***

Rudy Perez, who trained Marco Antonio Barrera throughout his trilogy with Erik Morales, died of stomach cancer on June 13 in Mexico City. He also trained fighters such as Israel Vazquez, Marcos Maidana, Hernan Marquez, Adrian Hernandez and Pablo Cesar Cano.

Riddick Bowe came big and fell hard in his Muay Thai debut in Thailand. The former heavyweight champ, 45 years old and 300 pounds, got chopped down by shin kicks from his Russian opponent, Levgen Golovin, and fell five times on the way to a second-round TKO. He reportedly pocketed $150,000 for the "fight."

Not that aging tough guys who think they can still hang need give up hope, because another would-be hero, **Lou Savarese**, 47, made his MMA debut in Texas with a first-round knockout victory.

And heavyweight **Audley Harrison** boomeranged his way out of retirement after less than a month, saying he couldn't walk away on his knockout loss to Deontay Wilder on May 1.

Former junior bantamweight titleholder **Yota Sato** announced *his* retirement (and for now we'll just have to take his word for it). Sato's last fight, a TKO loss to Srisaket Sor Rungvisai in Thailand, was the third time he entered the ring to defend his WBC title and the only time he fought outside of Japan. He finishes (maybe) with a record of 26-3-1 (12 knockouts). RING

Kirkland: John Gichigi/Getty Images; Wallberg: MAJA SUSLIN/AFP/Getty Images

RIJKER'S RESCUE

Quick thinking by Lucia Rijker, the trainer of Frida Wallberg's opponent, might've saved Wallberg from a tragic fate.

Frida Wallberg first was knocked on her back by a superlative left hook from Diana Prazak. She got up, but moments later went down again and the fight was over. Seeing the Swedish star lose for the first time in such brutal fashion was enough to unnerve the crowd in Stockholm on June 14.

Things got truly disturbing as the ref helped an unsteady Wallberg to her feet and then back to her corner, where the suffering fighter clung to the ropes for lack of a stool as a ringside doctor examined her and then walked away. It was Prazak's trainer, Lucia Rijker, whose calls of alarm eventually brought the stretcher that carried the fallen junior lightweight champion to an ambulance.

At the hospital, Wallberg underwent surgery for a cerebral hemorrhage and spent the next day in a coma. When she left intensive care on June 16, she told fans through Facebook not to worry. The nature of the injury, however, almost certainly mandates retirement.

The Swedish Boxing Federation will investigate the particulars of what happened, including questions raised about possible negligence by officials and whether Wallberg's preparation may have put her at risk even though she was given an MRI and cleared two weeks before the fight. And the incident will surely fuel a new debate over the fate of professional boxing in Sweden, where it was banned from 1970 to 2006 (it still is in neighboring Norway) after a study concluded that the sport inflicts life-threatening injuries on its participants and mental trauma on its spectators.

Watching the video of the fight's ending is indeed difficult. The way Wallberg's posture crumbles in the corner isn't due to fatigue. And the expression on her face isn't just the result of losing. It is the look of a pilot who is hearing the alarm that only goes off when plane and ground are about to meet prematurely.

So why did everyone around her not see what was happening?

Inexperience wasn't an issue. The doctor, Robert Ludwig, was no newbie. The referee, Bela Florian, has 11 pages of past gigs on Boxrec.com, including other female title bouts. Wallberg's own trainer, William Nguesseu, retired from the ring because of a head injury.

It wasn't barbarism, either. Florian's manner was protective, even gentle, and Ludwig spent as much time embracing Wallberg as checking her pupils. Maybe more. If anything, their ministrations were downright fatherly.

But in this case inappropriate.

You don't reach down and pick up a fighter who has just been knocked out. You do that to a child who has scraped her knee. And you don't hug someone when you should be looking for signs of brain damage.

Maybe the crowd's silence did it. Maybe everyone decided independently to deny that anything truly serious could actually be happening to the Golden Girl. They should've prepared for the possibility, though. Prazak came into the fight with a 54 percent KO rate – high for women's boxing – and only two losses: her debut in Australia and a decision against Holly Holm in Albuquerque, N.M. Whatever the case, though, people forgot their jobs.

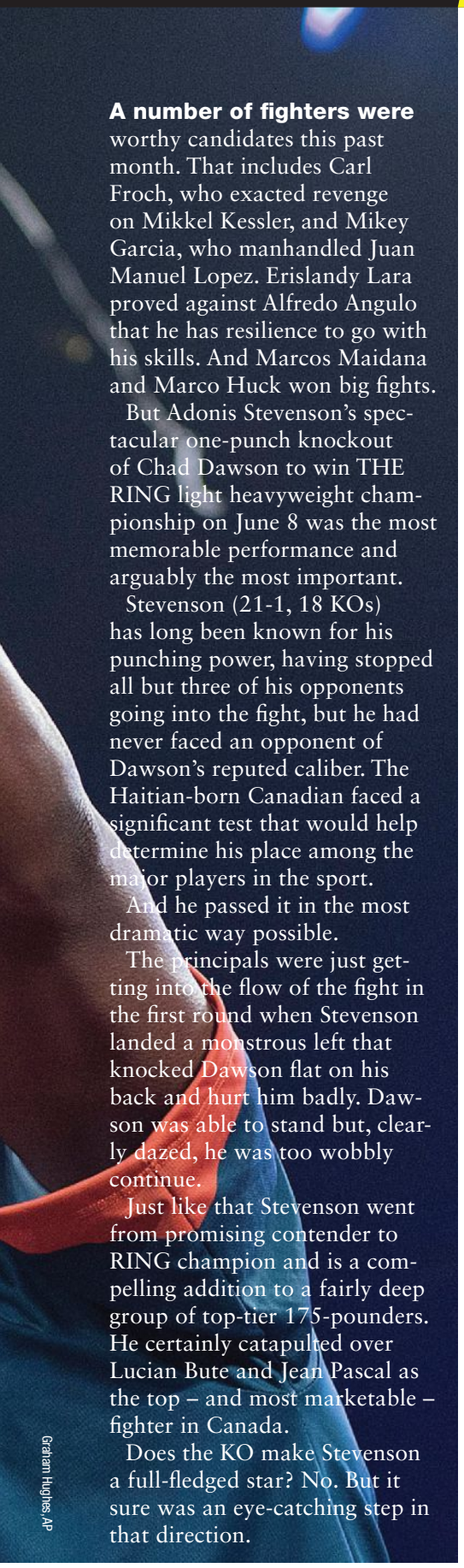
Thankfully, Rijker kept both her heart *and* her head about her. She saw something wrong and stopped celebrating with her own fighter to help. In so doing, she may have prevented a bad situation from getting much worse.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

ADONIS STEVENSON

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Adonis Stevenson proved he belongs with the big boys after stopping Chad Dawson with one punch in the first round.



Graham Hughes, AP

A number of fighters were worthy candidates this past month. That includes Carl Froch, who exacted revenge on Mikkel Kessler, and Mikey Garcia, who manhandled Juan Manuel Lopez. Erislandy Lara proved against Alfredo Angulo that he has resilience to go with his skills. And Marcos Maidana and Marco Huck won big fights.

But Adonis Stevenson's spectacular one-punch knockout of Chad Dawson to win THE RING light heavyweight championship on June 8 was the most memorable performance and arguably the most important.

Stevenson (21-1, 18 KOs) has long been known for his punching power, having stopped all but three of his opponents going into the fight, but he had never faced an opponent of Dawson's reputed caliber. The Haitian-born Canadian faced a significant test that would help determine his place among the major players in the sport.

And he passed it in the most dramatic way possible.

The principals were just getting into the flow of the fight in the first round when Stevenson landed a monstrous left that knocked Dawson flat on his back and hurt him badly. Dawson was able to stand but, clearly dazed, he was too wobbly continue.

Just like that Stevenson went from promising contender to RING champion and is a compelling addition to a fairly deep group of top-tier 175-pounders. He certainly catapulted over Lucian Bute and Jean Pascal as the top – and most marketable – fighter in Canada.

Does the KO make Stevenson a full-fledged star? No. But it sure was an eye-catching step in that direction.

POUND FOR POUND: No change.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Ola Afolabi dropped from No. 3 to No. 4 after losing a majority decision in his third meeting with No. 1-rated Marco Huck. Lateef Kayode (No. 6 last month) was removed for inactivity. The resulting upward slide left room for Rakhim Chakhkiev, who always seems to be waiting at No. 11, to join the list.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: The expeditious rematch of March's draw between Isaac Chilemba (No. 7 last month) and Tony Bellew (No. 8) ended with a unanimous decision for Bellew, so the two of them switched places. Adonis Stevenson (rated No. 9 at super middleweight last month) demolished Chad Dawson in one round to become the new 175-pound champ. Dawson plunged to No. 5 as a result. But since Beibut Shumenov (No. 3 last month) was also removed for inactivity, the only other effect was that Sergei Kovalev and Tavoris Clous (respectively Nos. 4 and 5 last month) each moved up a notch.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: James DeGale (unrated last month) stopped Stjepan Bozic (also unrated) in the fourth round to claim the No. 10 spot, while Edwin Rodriguez (No. 10 last month) took the No. 9 spot vacated by Stevenson.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Erislandy Lara (No. 4 last month) took the No. 3 spot from Miguel Cotto on the strength of a hard-fought 10th-round knockout of Alfredo Angulo (unranked).

WELTERWEIGHTS: Marcos Maidana, who pretty much wins by knockout or not at all, stopped unrated Josesito Lopez in the also-memorable co-feature to Lara-Angulo. Maidana entered the ratings at No. 10, displacing fellow Argentine Luis Abregu.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No. 2-rated Yuriorkis Gamboa moved up to lightweight, where he defeated unrated Darley Perez. His departure moved Nos. 3-10 up a spot and left the bottom vacant for Mexican KO artist Sergio Thompson to move in.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: The comeback was not to be for Juan Manuel Lopez (No. 10 last month), as he lost by fourth-round TKO to champion Mikey Garcia, who lost his WBO title on the scale for missing weight. Lopez fell off the list and was replaced by undefeated Californian Ronny Rios.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: The second man from the top, Suriyan Sor Rungvisai, jumped up to bantamweight. That allowed everyone from No. 3 (Juan Carlos Sanchez) to No. 10 (Arthur Villanueva) to move up a notch. Mexico's Felipe Orucuta took the bottom spot. Japanese mainstay Yota Sato (No. 5 last month) then announced his retirement, thus Nos. 6-10 rose again to make way for Venezuelan Liborio Solis at No. 10.

FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Hekkie Budler (No. 7 last month) impressively scored a split decision over fellow South African Nkosinathi Joyi (No. 3 at the time). Budler became the new No. 3, pushing everyone from Joyi to Mario Rodriguez (No. 6 last month) down a level.

Erislandy Lara (left) and Alfredo Angulo gave fans a fight to remember on June 8.

Naoki Fukuda

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C	**WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**	Ukraine | 60-3-0 (51 KOs)
1.	**VITALI KLITSCHKO**	Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs)
2.	**ALEXANDER POVETKIN**	Russia | 26-0-0 (18 KOs)
3.	**DAVID HAYE**	U.K. | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
4.	**KUBRAT PULEV**	Bulgaria | 17-0-0 (9 KOs)
5.	**TOMASZ ADAMEK**	Poland | 48-2-0 (29 KOs)
6.	**RUSLAN CHAGAEV**	Uzbekistan | 31-2-1 (20 KOs)
7.	**ROBERT HELENIUS**	Finland | 19-0-0 (11 KOs)
8.	**TYSON FURY**	U.K. | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)
9.	**TONY THOMPSON**	U.S. | 37-3-0 (25 KOs)
10.	**BERMANE STIVERNE**	Canada | 23-1-1 (20 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C	**YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**	Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)
1.	**MARCO HUCK**	Germany | 36-2-1 (25 KOs)
2.	**KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**	Poland | 47-2-1 (33 KOs)
3.	**GUILLERMO JONES**	Panama | 39-3-2 (31 KOs)
4.	**OLA AFOLABI**	U.K. | 19-3-4 (9 KOs)
5.	**DENIS LEBEDEV**	Russia | 25-2-0 (19 KOs)
6.	**MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**	Poland | 30-0-0 (22 KOs)
7.	**TROY ROSS**	Canada | 25-3-0 (16 KOs)
8.	**FIRAT ARSLAN**	Germany | 33-6-2 (21 KOs)
9.	**DMYTRO KUCHER**	Ukraine | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)
10.	**RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV**	Russia | 16-0-0 (12 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C	**ADONIS STEVENSON**	Canada | 21-1-0 (18 KOs)
1.	**BERNARD HOPKINS**	U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
2.	**NATHAN CLEVERLY**	U.K. | 25-0-0 (12 KOs)
3.	**SERGEI KOVALEV**	Russia | 21-0-1 (19 KOs)
4.	**TAVORIS CLOUD**	U.S. | 24-1-0 (19 KOs)
5.	**CHAD DAWSON**	U.S. | 31-3-0 (17 KOs)
6.	**KARO MURAT**	Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
7.	**TONY BELLEW**	U.K. | 20-1-1 (12 KOs)
8.	**ISAAC CHILEMBA**	Malawi | 20-2-2 (9 KOs)
9.	**JUERGEN BRAEHMER**	Germany | 40-2-0 (31 KOs)
10.	**DENIS GRACHEV**	Russia | 13-1-1 (8 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C	**ANDRE WARD**	U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
1.	**CARL FROCH**	U.K. | 31-2-0 (22 KOs)
2.	**MIKKEL KESSLER**	Denmark | 46-3-0 (35 KOs)
3.	**LUCIAN BUTE**	Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)
4.	**ROBERT STIEGLITZ**	Russia | 44-3-0 (25 KOs)
5.	**THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**	South Africa | 21-0-1 (13 KOs)
6.	**ARTHUR ABRAHAM**	Armenia | 36-4-0 (28 KOs)
7.	**GEORGE GROVES**	U.K. | 19-0-0 (15 KOs)
8.	**SAKIO BIKA**	Cameroon | 31-5-2 (21 KOs)
9.	**EDWIN RODRIGUEZ**	Dominican Rep. | 23-0-0 (15 KOs)
10.	**JAMES DEGALE**	U.K. | 16-1-0 (11 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

- **C** **SERGIO MARTINEZ** Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs)
- **1.** **DANIEL GEALE** Australia | 29-1-0 (15 KOs)
- **2.** **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** Kazakhstan | 26-0-0 (23 KOs)
- **3.** **FELIX STURM** Germany | 37-3-2 (16 KOs)
- **4.** **PETER QUILLIN** U.S. | 29-0-0 (21 KOs)
- **5.** **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.** Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
- **6.** **MATTHEW MACKLIN** U.K. | 29-4-0 (20 KOs)
- **7.** **MARTIN MURRAY** U.K. | 25-1-1 (11 KOs)
- **8.** **HASSAN N'DAM** France | 27-1-0 (17 KOs)
- **9.** **DARREN BARKER** U.K. | 25-1-0 (16 KOs)
- **10.** **BRIAN VERA** U.S. | 23-6-0 (14 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

- **C** **SAUL ALVAREZ** Mexico | 42-0-1 (30 KOs)
- **1.** **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 44-0-0 (26 KOs)
- **2.** **AUSTIN TROUT** U.S. | 26-1-0 (14 KOs)
- **3.** **ERISLANDY LARA** Cuba | 18-1-2 (12 KOs)
- **4.** **MIGUEL COTTO** Puerto Rico | 37-4-0 (30 KOs)
- **5.** **VANES MARTIROSYAN** U.S. | 33-0-1 (21 KOs)
- **6.** **CARLOS MOLINA** Mexico | 21-5-2 (6 KOs)
- **7.** **ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV** Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)
- **8.** **ISHE SMITH** U.S. | 25-5-0 (11 KOs)
- **9.** **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** U.S. | 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
- **10.** **WILLIE NELSON** U.S. | 20-1-1 (12 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

- **C** **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 44-0-0 (26 KOs)
- **1.** **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs)
- **2.** **MANNY PACQUIAO** Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs)
- **3.** **KELL BROOK** U.K. | 29-0-0 (19 KOs)
- **4.** **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI** U.S. | 32-4-0 (7 KOs)
- **5.** **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **6.** **DEVON ALEXANDER** U.S. | 25-1-0 (14 KOs)
- **7.** **ROBERT GUERRERO** U.S. | 31-2-1 (18 KOs)
- **8.** **VICTOR ORTIZ** U.S. | 29-4-2 (22 KOs)
- **9.** **KEITH THURMAN** U.S. | 20-0-0 (18 KOs)
- **10.** **MARCOS MAIDANA** Argentina | 34-3-0 (31 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

- **C** **DANNY GARCIA** U.S. | 26-0-0 (16 KOs)
- **1.** **LUCAS MATTHYSSE** Argentina | 34-2-0 (32 KOs)
- **2.** **AMIR KHAN** U.K. | 28-3-0 (19 KOs)
- **3.** **MIKE ALVARADO** U.S. | 34-1-0 (23 KOs)
- **4.** **LAMONT PETERSON** U.S. | 31-2-1 (16 KOs)
- **5.** **ZAB JUDAH** U.S. | 42-8-0 (29 KOs)
- **6.** **BRANDON RIOS** U.S. | 31-1-1 (23 KOs)
- **7.** **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** Russia | 18-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **8.** **DENIS SHAFIKOV** Russia | 32-0-1 (17 KOs)
- **9.** **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV** Russia | 22-2-0 (15 KOs)
- **10.** **DIERRY JEAN** Canada | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

- **C** **VACANT**
- **1.** **ADRIEN BRONER** U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs)
- **2.** **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)
- **3.** **RICKY BURNS** U.K. | 36-2-0 (11 KOs)
- **4.** **RICHAR ABRIL** Cuba | 18-3-1 (8 KOs)
- **5.** **ANTONIO DEMARCO** Mexico | 28-3-1 (21 KOs)
- **6.** **GAVIN REES** U.K. | 37-2-1 (18 KOs)
- **7.** **SHARIF BOGERE** Uganda | 23-1-0 (15 KOs)
- **8.** **KEVIN MITCHELL** U.K. | 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
- **9.** **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN** Mexico | 28-6-0 (17 KOs)
- **10.** **DANIEL ESTRADA** Mexico | 31-2-1 (23 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

- **C** **VACANT**
- **1.** **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** Japan | 20-0-1 (17 KOs)
- **2.** **ARGENIS MENDEZ** Dominican Rep. | 21-2-0 (11 KOs)
- **3.** **ROMAN MARTINEZ** Puerto Rico | 27-1-2 (16 KOs)
- **4.** **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS** Mexico | 30-1-1 (20 KOs)
- **5.** **DIEGO MAGDALENO** U.S. | 23-1-0 (9 KOs)
- **6.** **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO** Mexico | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
- **7.** **TAKASHI MIURA** Japan | 25-2-2 (19 KOs)
- **8.** **TAKAHIRO AO** Japan | 23-3-1 (10 KOs)
- **9.** **WILL TOMLINSON** Australia | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)
- **10.** **SERGIO THOMPSON** Mexico | 27-2-0 (25 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

- **C** **MIKEY GARCIA** U.S. | 32-0-0 (27 KOs)
- **1.** **CHRIS JOHN** Indonesia | 48-0-3 (22 KOs)
- **2.** **ABNER MARES** Mexico | 26-0-1 (14 KOs)
- **3.** **ORLANDO SALIDO** Mexico | 39-12-2 (27 KOs)
- **4.** **JHONNY GONZALEZ** Mexico | 54-8-0 (46 KOs)
- **5.** **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON** Mexico | 44-5-0 (35 KOs)
- **6.** **EVGENY GRADOVICH** Russia | 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **7.** **BILLY DIB** Australia | 35-2-0 (21 KOs)
- **8.** **NICHOLAS WALTERS** Jamaica | 22-0-0 (18 KOs)
- **9.** **JAVIER FORTUNA** Dominican Rep. | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)
- **10.** **RONNY RIOS** U.S. | 21-0-0 (10 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

- **C** **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **1.** **NONITO DONAIRE** Philippines | 31-2-0 (20 KOs)
- **2.** **JEFFREY MATHEBULA** South Africa | 27-4-2 (14 KOs)
- **3.** **CARL FRAMPTON** U.K. | 16-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **4.** **SCOTT QUIGG** U.K. | 25-0-1 (18 KOs)
- **5.** **VIC DARCHINYAN** Armenia | 39-5-1 (28 KOs)
- **6.** **TOMOKI KAMEDA** Japan | 27-0-0 (18 KOs)
- **7.** **VICTOR TERRAZAS** Mexico | 37-2-1 (21 KOs)
- **8.** **JONATHAN ROMERO** Colombia | 23-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **9.** **LEO SANTA CRUZ** U.S. | 24-0-1 (14 KOs)
- **10.** **FERNANDO MONTIEL** Mexico | 49-4-2 (37 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 33-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
Japan | 18-0-2 (13 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 30-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
Philippines | 32-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
Mexico | 32-2-0 (29 KOs)
6. **PAULUS AMBUNDA**
Namibia | 20-0-0 (10 KOs)
7. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana | 29-4-0 (22 KOs)
8. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
U.K. | 21-2-1 (9 KOs)
9. **JULIO CEJA**
Mexico | 24-1-0 (22 KOs)
10. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
Japan | 14-1-0 (9 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina | 39-1-2 (20 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
Mexico | 16-1-1 (8 KOs)
3. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
Mexico | 28-0-0 (23 KOs)
4. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 19-3-1 (18 KOs)
5. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
Thailand | 23-3-0 (13 KOs)
6. **RYO AKAHO**
Japan | 20-1-2 (13 KOs)
7. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
Thailand | 48-1-1 (17 KOs)
8. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
Philippines | 22-0-0 (12 KOs)
9. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
Mexico | 27-2-0 (23 KOs)
10. **LIBORIO SOLIS**
Venezuela | 15-3-1 (7 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
Japan | 17-3-0 (9 KOs)

1. **JUAN ESTRADA**
Mexico | 24-2-0 (18 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
3. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 36-3-0 (26 KOs)
4. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
5. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico | 49-7-0 (29 KOs)
6. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
Japan | 17-2-1 (10 KOs)
7. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines | 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina | 30-1-0 (16 KOs)
9. **ROCKY FUENTES**
Philippines | 35-6-2 (20 KOs)
10. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
Panama | 28-3-0 (21 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua | 35-0-0 (29 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines | 31-1-4 (17 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
Mexico | 16-1-1 (8 KOs)
4. **KAZUTO IOKA**
Japan | 12-0-0 (8 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
Mexico | 27-2-1 (16 KOs)
6. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
Philippines | 18-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
Japan | 18-1-1 (8 KOs)
8. **FELIX ALVARADO**
Nicaragua | 16-0-0 (13 KOs)
9. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
Mexico | 19-1-1 (13 KOs)
10. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
Peru | 30-8-0 (13 KOs)

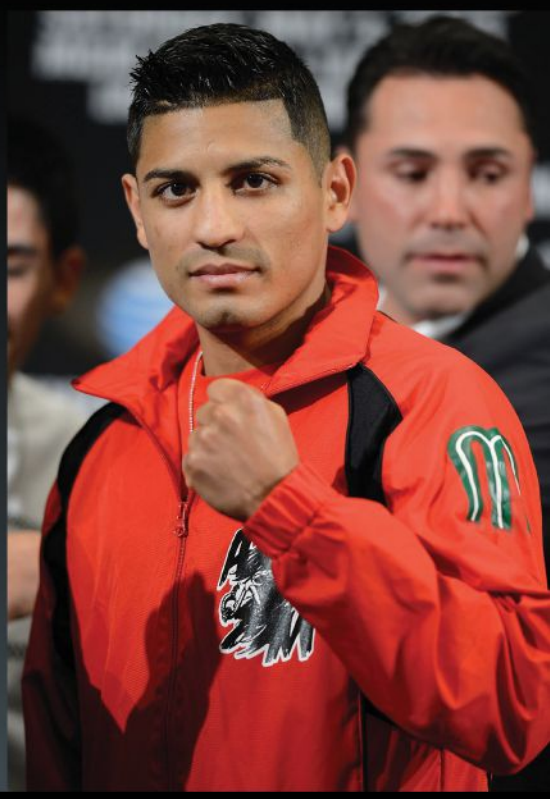
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **DENVER CUELLO**
Philippines | 33-4-6 (21 KOs)
2. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
Thailand | 28-0-0 (9 KOs)
3. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
South Africa | 23-1-0 (6 KOs)
4. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
South Africa | 23-2-0 (16 KOs)
5. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan | 25-6-0 (10 KOs)
6. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
Japan | 19-0-3 (11 KOs)
7. **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**
Mexico | 15-7-4 (11 KOs)
8. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
Nicaragua | 26-0-0 (16 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
Mexico | 27-3-0 (20 KOs)
10. **MERLITO SABILLO**
Philippines | 22-0-0 (11 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 44-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
4. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 60-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
5. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico | 26-0-1 (14 KOs) | FEATHERWEIGHT
6. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs) | LIGHTWEIGHT
7. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
8. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
9. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
10. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 42-0-1 (30 KOs) | JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT



THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

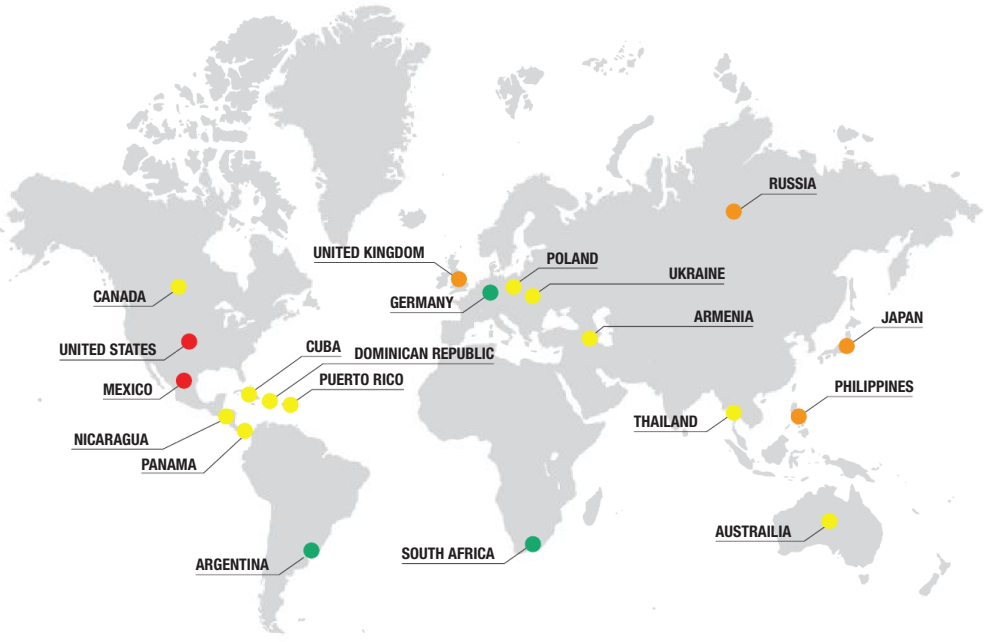
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	31*
MEXICO	30
UNITED KINGDOM	19
JAPAN	14
RUSSIA	11
PHILIPPINES	10
ARGENTINA	5
GERMANY	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
CANADA	4
CUBA	4
THAILAND	4
AUSTRALIA	3
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3
NICARAGUA	3
PANAMA	3
POLAND	3
UKRAINE	3
ARMENIA	2
PUERTO RICO	2
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COLOMBIA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
GHANA	1
INDONESIA	1
JAMAICA	1
KAZAKHSTAN	1
MALAWI	1
NAMIBIA	1
PERU	1
ROMANIA	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1
VENEZUELA	1

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).*



LITTLE BIG MEN

European and U.S. fighters dominate the heavier weight divisions. Who controls the lighter classes? Here are the countries with the most rated fighters from lightweight (135 pounds) to strawweight (105 pounds).

DIVISION	MEXICO	JAPAN	PHILIPPINES
HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	0	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	0	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	0	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	0	0
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0	0
WELTERWEIGHTS	1	0	1
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	0	0	0
LIGHTWEIGHTS	4	0	0
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	3	3	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	4	0	0
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	1	1
BANTAMWEIGHTS	2	3	1
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	3	1	1
FLYWEIGHTS	3	2	2
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	3	2	2
STRAWWEIGHTS	2	2	2
TOTAL (135 DOWN)	26	14	9

EN-TITLED

Ranking of countries by number of major titles (RING, WBC, IBF, WBA and WBO) it holds.

U.S.	16
MEXICO	9
JAPAN	7
CUBA	6
UKRAINE	5
U.K.	4
ARGENTINA	3
PHILIPPINES	3
RUSSIA	3
CANADA	2
PANAMA	2
AUSTRALIA, COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GERMANY, INDONESIA, KAZAKHSTAN, NAMIBIA, NICARAGUA, POLAND, PUERTO RICO, SOUTH AFRICA AND THAILAND	1

Andre Ward owns three of the United States' 16 major titles.

Mares: Jeff Bottari/Getty Images; Ward: Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes. Our guest this month is RING columnist David Greisman.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR
- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR
- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** CHRIS JOHN
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER
- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** ABNER MARES
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** ROMAN GONZALEZ

BERNARD FERNANDEZ BOXING WRITER
- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

Unbeaten Nicaraguan junior flyweight Roman Gonzalez is often overlooked because of his size but hardcore fans know how good he is.

Jeff Bottari/Getty Images

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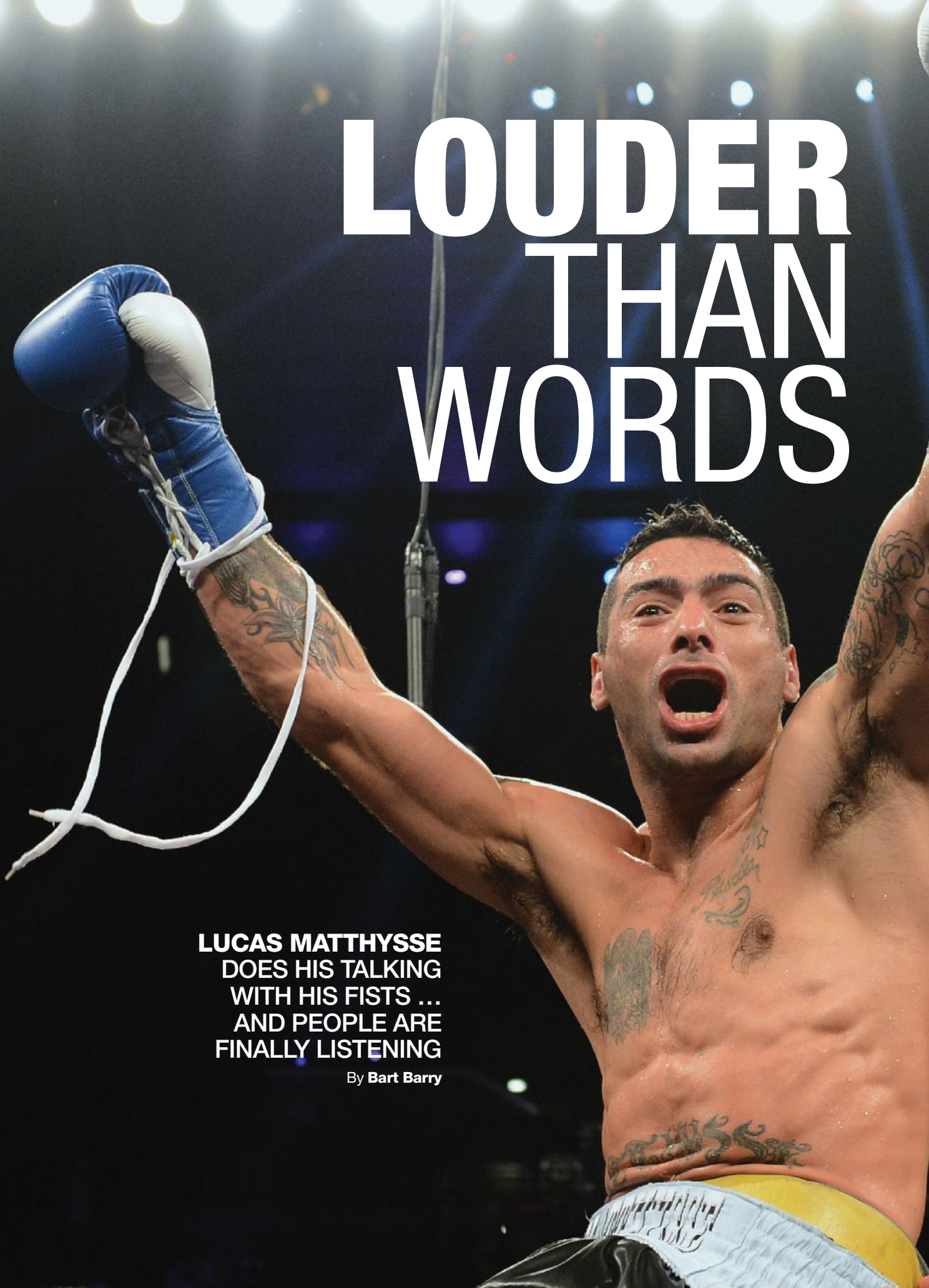
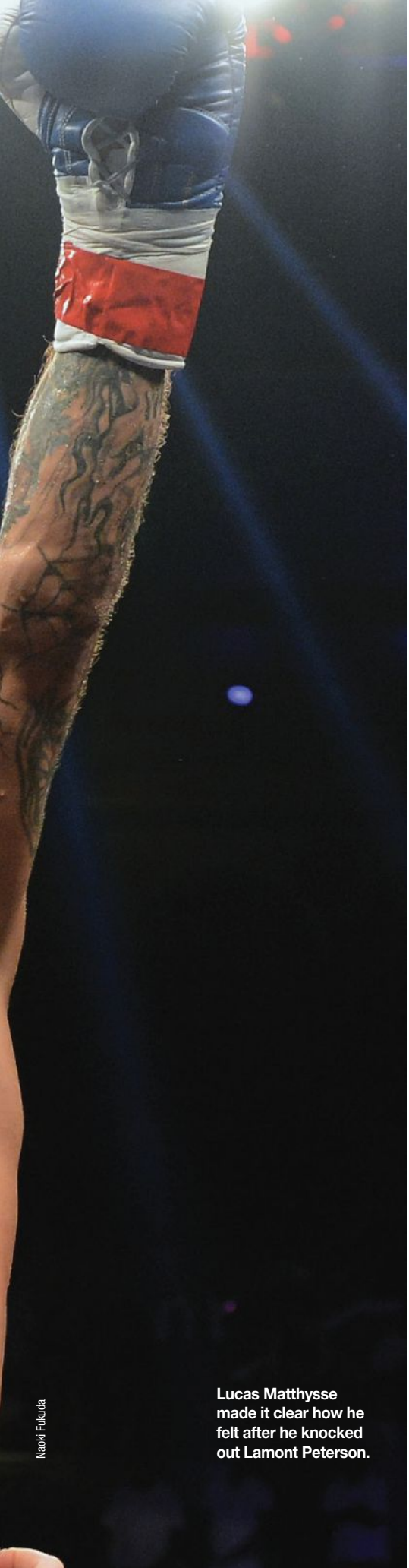


LOUDER THAN WORDS

LUCAS MATTHYSSE DOES HIS TALKING WITH HIS FISTS … AND PEOPLE ARE FINALLY LISTENING

By **Bart Barry**



Naoki Fukuda

Lucas Matthysse made it clear how he felt after he knocked out Lamont Peterson.

Argentine junior welterweight Lucas "The Machine" Matthysse stood in the middle of the ring and delivered his post-fight interview, naturally careful if uncaring. None of the few blows landed by his American opponent, Lamont Peterson, had induced the punch-drunken garrulousness to which other fighters are prone immediately after victories. Matthysse was, instead, the picture of a predator sated, a beast that had devoured its prey and now looked lazily about, contemplating a nap.

True to his moniker, Matthysse mechanically said he was happy to have won, believed he was the world's best in his weight class, looked forward to a unification match in the fall. His interviewer out of questions, Matthysse raised his taped left fist and extended a smiling salute to Argentina. Then "The Machine" passed along a greeting to his child, and the mere completion of the Spanish words for "my daughter" – three syllables the language's silent 'h' makes two, *mi hija* – Matthysse's eyes watered and his throat contracted.

It was a reminder that we do not know Lucas Matthysse.

"In everyday life, he is a man that looks to go unnoticed," explained Osvaldo Principi, a boxing writer with La Nación in Buenos Aires. "He is bothered by the 'big city' and possessing a popular profile. He looks to be anonymous."

Matthysse is unknowable. He is profoundly shy. He is aware it is his timidity that might preclude his becoming an international figure like Manny Pacquiao, a fighter to whom Matthysse increasingly finds himself compared. As shyness is more a trait than a condition and apparently difficult for Matthysse to overcome, he makes his most interesting statements in the ring.

"Lucas is a great person, an excellent, excellent person," said middleweight champion and fellow Argentine Sergio Martinez. "Very tranquil. And quite shy, no? But he is a very good person of a very good type."

"He's very shy," said matchmaker Eric Gomez. "People don't know that."

"Matthysse is a loner, and for that reason he is not pleased by stories (about himself)," agreed Carlos Irusta, the Argentine author of a feature story about Matthysse for ESPN. "I suppose that it hides a great timidity, because he does not like media exposure."

"Very quiet, very humble," said matchmaker Robert Diaz. "I've translated for him on some calls on occasions, and I have to repeat like two or three times: 'Hey, speak up a little louder. I can't hear you.' Very humble kid."

It would be wrong to bemoan, as many aficionados rightly do, the over-marketing of prizefighters and the contemporary habit of boxers to spend as much time on media tours as champions from previous eras spent in training camps, and then bemoan Matthysse's reticence. It is aficionados' obligation, in part, to discover within "The Machine's" taciturn affect outside the ring something endearing, enchanting even.

But for all the cultural differences that exist between Argentina and the United States, the mystification about Matthysse's obsessive privacy is mutual. To those who live in Buenos Aires as much as those who reside in New York City or Los Angeles, the fighter's unwillingness to speak publicly or acquiesce to interview requests is mystifying.

"His quiet way has postponed his ascent," opined Principi.

Matthysse calmly and coldly goes about removing men from their senses, as he has done here against Peterson.

Naoki Fukuda

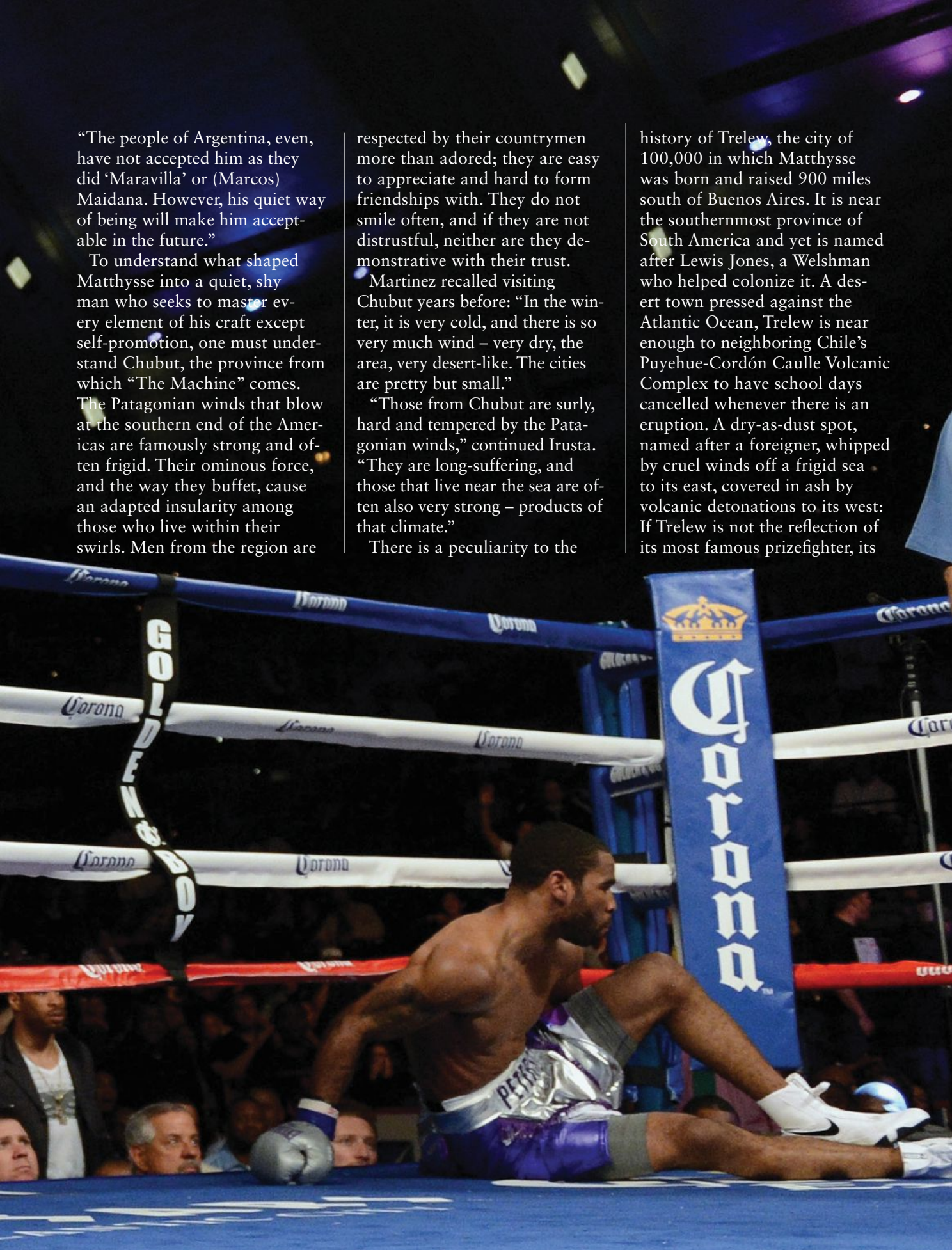
"The people of Argentina, even, have not accepted him as they did 'Maravilla' or (Marcos) Maidana. However, his quiet way of being will make him acceptable in the future."

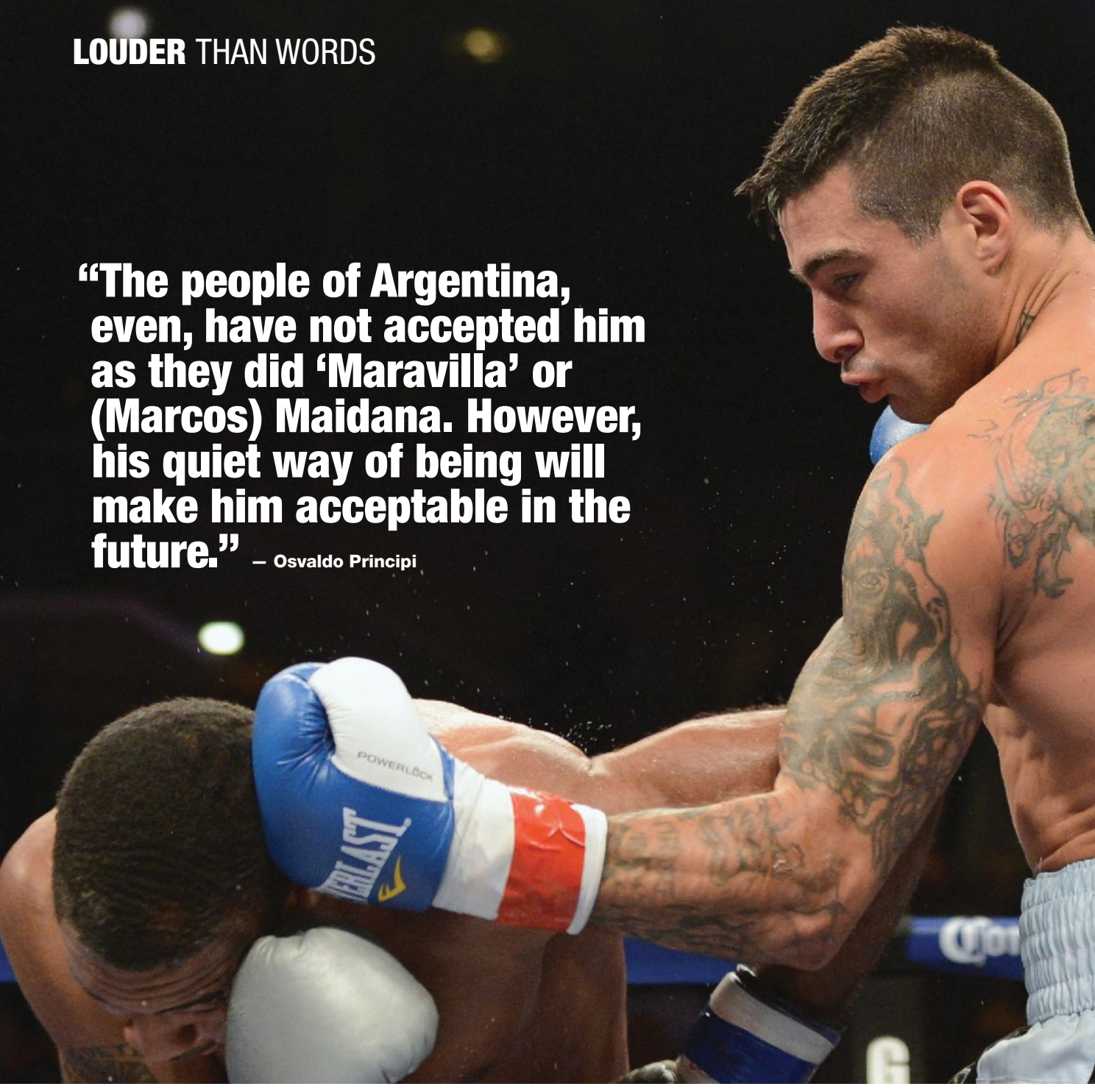
To understand what shaped Matthysse into a quiet, shy man who seeks to master every element of his craft except self-promotion, one must understand Chubut, the province from which "The Machine" comes. The Patagonian winds that blow at the southern end of the Americas are famously strong and often frigid. Their ominous force, and the way they buffet, cause an adapted insularity among those who live within their swirls. Men from the region are respected by their countrymen more than adored; they are easy to appreciate and hard to form friendships with. They do not smile often, and if they are not distrustful, neither are they demonstrative with their trust.

Martinez recalled visiting Chubut years before: "In the winter, it is very cold, and there is so very much wind – very dry, the area, very desert-like. The cities are pretty but small."

"Those from Chubut are surly, hard and tempered by the Patagonian winds," continued Irusta. "They are long-suffering, and those that live near the sea are often also very strong – products of that climate."

There is a peculiarity to the history of Trelew, the city of 100,000 in which Matthysse was born and raised 900 miles south of Buenos Aires. It is near the southernmost province of South America and yet is named after Lewis Jones, a Welshman who helped colonize it. A desert town pressed against the Atlantic Ocean, Trelew is near enough to neighboring Chile's Puyehue-Cordón Caulle Volcanic Complex to have school days cancelled whenever there is an eruption. A dry-as-dust spot, named after a foreigner, whipped by cruel winds off a frigid sea to its east, covered in ash by volcanic detonations to its west: If Trelew is not the reflection of its most famous prizefighter, its





"The people of Argentina, even, have not accepted him as they did 'Maravilla' or (Marcos) Maidana. However, his quiet way of being will make him acceptable in the future." — Osvaldo Principi

ARGENTINE BOXING TODAY

Argentine boxing seems to be in good hands with relatively young Lucas Matthysse, Marcos Maidana, Luis Abregu and Juan Carlos Reveco in their primes. However, beyond them lurks talented but aging champions like Sergio Martinez and Omar Narvaez, and others who rarely venture outside Argentina or are relatively raw youngsters. Indeed, the future of Argentine boxing is uncertain. Here's a look at the 10 best from the South American nation (and five more).

1. Lucas Matthysse (34-2, 32 KOs): KO of Lamont Peterson probably lifted him to No. 1 status among Argentine fighters.

2. Sergio Martinez (51-2-2, 28 KOs): The 38-year-old's body is breaking down but he still hasn't lost since 2009, a span of seven fights.

3. Omar Narvaez (39-1-2, 20 KOs): Has held either the WBO flyweight or junior bantamweight title since 2002 and continues to win at 37.

4. Marcos Maidana (34-3, 31 KOs): Slugger has yet to win a major championship but has something arguably more important – many fans.

Peterson (left) was overwhelmed by Matthysse's power.

elements still quite obviously shaped him.

In name and appearance, too, Matthysse bears marks more European than indigenous American, further confounding anyone who tries to know him. His family is composed of fighters, men and women of varying talents and skills: Matthysse's father, Mario, and uncle Miguel Steimbach were prizefighters. His sister, Soledad, is a prizefighter. His brother-in-law Mario Narvaez is a prizefighter, and Mario's brother, Omar Narvaez, is THE RING's No. 1-rated junior bantamweight. Lucas' older brother, Walter, is probably the best known of the Matthysse family in the United States. He's remembered mostly for his poor showings against Paul Williams in 2006 and Kermit Cintron 14 months later.

"Lucas is more serious than Walter was," said Eric Gomez, whose company, Golden Boy Promotions, has promoted both men. "Lucas doesn't party."

"He knows the boxing trade to the letter," said Principi, citing Matthysse's influences. "He has boxing blood. In his family, everyone fought. Even his mom, Doris, had an amateur fight."

"He just prefers solitude," confirmed Irusta, "the company of his daughter, of his team, and of his dogs that accompany him when he goes jogging in the morning."

Lucas Matthysse is best understood – only understood, really – through his actions in a prizefighting ring.

"In the ring, he looks secure and enjoys what he does," Principi said. "It bothers him to speak to someone he does not know. He prefers to listen and shows no rebelliousness."

Mistaken by some for a limited Latino slugger when he made a slow start in his American-television debut against Brooklyn's Zab Judah in 2010, a fight which was very much intended to begin another rehabilitation tour for Judah, Matthysse heeded his handlers' counsel and moved cautiously in the match's opening half.

"In the Judah fight we did speak prior to the fight that, 'Hey, Judah's very dangerous, so be careful the first few,'" Diaz said. "He didn't pick it up until after the sixth, which might have cost him the fight."

As the seventh round began and Matthysse realized Judah did not possess a suitable chisel for chipping "The Machine's" granitic chin, Matthysse began to hunt Judah, felling him in round 10 with a right that Judah partially deflected with both lead shoulder and glove. The second half of the fight was comprised largely of Judah finding ways to survive

5. Luis Abregu (35-1, 28 KOs): Skillful and tough welterweight is overdue for a shot at a major title. Only Tim Bradley has beaten him.

6. Juan Carlos Reveco (30-1, 16 KOs): Two-division titleholder beat Masayuki Kuroda in Japan to win the WBA flyweight belt.

7. Cesar Cuenca (45-0, 2 KOs): You read that correctly – two KOs. The junior welterweight gets it done with his boxing skills.

8. Diego Chaves (22-0, 18 KOs): We'll see how good the hard-punching welterweight is when he faces Keith Thurman on July 27.

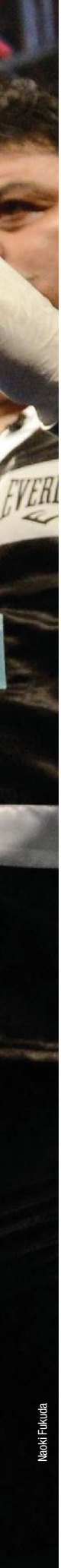
9. Jesus Cuellar (22-1, 18 KOs): The power-punching featherweight shows promise but has ventured out of Argentina only once.

10. Brian Castano (4-0, 3 KOs): The 154-pounder hasn't done much as a pro but his excellent amateur pedigree portends great things.

Five more: Ezequiel Maderna (19-1, 13 KOs), Sebastien Lujan (40-7-2, 25 KOs), Diego Santillan (19-0, 14 KOs), Guido Pitto (18-1, 7 KOs) and Claudio Olmeda (26-4, 25 KOs).

Naoki Fukuda

Matthysse wears the pride he has for his country on his back. That's the Argentine flag on his robe.



Naoki Fukuda

Matthysse's mechanical onslaught, even if it meant clenching shamelessly at the Argentine's elbows and gloves. When the decision in Judah's favor was read, Judah chose a penitent mien, a new look for him, and Matthysse flashed a rare grin – contempt alone twitching the muscles of his face.

"He has very heavy hands, and Zab Judah knows it perfectly," said Martinez, who has sparred with Matthysse in training camp despite their being three weight classes apart. "I always said, since the time I met him years ago, that (Matthysse) was going to be a champion because he has the mentality of a winner. He works so much in the gym. He trains very hard. He is a very intelligent man."

There was just debate about who deserved the decision, but there was little question about this: Had Matthysse and Judah been genuine belligerents attempting to settle a score, and not sportsmen, and had there been no bells ringing and no cessation of combat till one man was unconscious, Matthysse would have prevailed.

Seven months later, Matthysse returned to the United States and fought American Devon Alexander in Alexander's home state of Missouri.

The match brought another disputed decision, one from which Matthysse gained both experience and a haircut. Through his professional career, Matthysse had allowed a tail's worth of hair to grow from the bottom of his otherwise conservatively clipped mane, pledging in an inverted homage to Sampson not to cut the tail until he became a world champion. After dropping Alexander in Round 4 and losing a disputed split decision, though, Matthysse, still without a world title, cut his tail off and began to terrorize the junior welterweight division, stopping his next six opponents. Only one, Nigerian Olusegun Ajose, made it even to the midway point of the match.

"It took a little bit longer," Diaz said of Matthysse's tardy acclaim. "Because of the two 'losses' he has on his record – which I feel he won both – people didn't give him credit. But now people are like 'Lucas, Lucas, Lucas!'"

On May 18 in Atlantic City, with aficionados poised to give Matthysse his long-sought acclaim, "The Machine" fought Peterson, on a 3½-year unbeaten streak of his own, and unwreathed him brutally. Peterson moved nimbly and successfully away from Matthysse for all but a couple seconds of their first round, but in those final moments Matthysse touched Peterson with a left-hook lead that removed much of the momentum from Peterson's attack. On his way from the center of the ring to his corner, Matthysse studied Peterson's face for fissures, cracks in his resolve, signs of vulnerability, in a way reminiscent of Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez.

"In the first round, it cost me a little," Matthysse said to the Spanish-speaking press after the fight. "(Peterson) had proper distance and moved well. In the second round, he felt the weight of my hand.

"I thought it was going to be a very hard fight for me, but, well, I was able to knock him out."

After being dropped three times and stopped in the final minute of the third round, Peterson cited a Matthysse right hand to the back of his head as the punch that altered his calculus and led him to punch with Matthysse, ensuring the fight's result.

Most every Matthysse opponent cites a right hand to the back of his head at some point, and while Matthysse is never penalized, and while most men victimized by its looping trajectory and immense force are accomplices in the act by pushing their foreheads parallel to the mat as Matthysse winds up – for wind up he does – it is the nearest thing to a hidden weapon in the Matthysse arsenal. All other weaponry is kept in plain sight.

"In the neighborhood, they say I am a point of pride," Matthysse told his hometown newspaper, *Diario Jornada* in Trelew. "My friends say I bring pride to them, they are so happy with where I am. Mind you, I don't follow anyone's example. I am how I am."

On April 27, Martinez, fighting in an event whose lineup was rejiggered because of driving rain, performed before as many as 50,000 of his countrymen in Buenos Aires, making "Maravilla" the largest figure currently in Argentine boxing. But Martinez will need another knee surgery and the rest of 2013 to recuperate and is not, himself, sure how much longer he will continue.

"Some time ago, I came to thinking about (retirement)," Martinez said. "I'm waiting for the right time to take the final step. I know that it will be soon."

"Sergio Martinez is a champion who lives as such and exhibits proudly his status," Principi said. "Lucas is a boxer who wishes to be a champion to live better. That is the vital difference between them. They feel about their champion statuses in ways that are very different."

Matthysse is now five years younger than Martinez was when he began his world title reign with a victory over Kelly Pavlik. If "The Machine" is able to continue his impersonal elimination of each opponent placed in a prizefighting ring with him, his run could easily surpass that of "Maravilla," even if he never embraces the spotlight in the same way.

Matthysse will best be known as a world champion. It is the only way he can be known.

ARGENTINE COLLISION COURSE?

SLUGGERS **LUCAS MATTHYSSE** AND **MARCOS MAIDANA** ARE NATURAL OPPONENTS

By **Anson Wainwright**

The mere thought of Argentine power punchers Lucas Matthysse and Marcos Maidana sharing the ring is enough to make any boxing fan go giddy with anticipation. And it would seem to be a natural matchup even if it isn't in the works at the moment. Consider:

- They are both promoted by Golden Boy.
- They both turned pro in 2004.
- They have very similar records. Matthysse is 34-2 (32 knockouts), Maidana 34-3 (31 KOs).
- Their knockout ratios are similar, 86 percent for Matthysse and 83 percent for Maidana.
- They are roughly the same age, Matthysse (30) being 10 months older than Maidana (29).
- They are about the same height. Maidana is 5-foot-7, Matthysse 5-6½.
- They don't fight in the same division – Maidana at 147, Matthysse at 140 – but weight obviously wouldn't be a serious roadblock.
- And, finally, they're both coming off sensational victories. Matthysse stopped Lamont Peterson in three rounds on May 18 while Maidana KO'd Josesito Lopez in six on June 8.

"If that's the fight people want, we have to deliver it," Maidana said. "I'm willing to fight him at a catchweight. I could drop four pounds and he could move up three pounds and make it at 143 pounds, for instance. We all know that it would be a great bout."

Yes we do. These are two entertaining boxers at the top of their

An all-Argentine showdown between Lucas Matthysse (left) and Marcos Maidana is a natural.

Naoki Fukuda

games. Golden Boy matchmaker Robert Diaz was thrilled by the most recent performances of both fighters.

"I have to say yes, I was very surprised it ended that early," Diaz said of the Matthysse-Peterson fight. "It was incredible because you're not just talking about any fighter (in Peterson); you're talking about a very well-rounded world champion, one of the top fighters in the division."

Diaz said of Maidana, who stopped Josesito Lopez in six rounds on June 8: "It was a great fight. Anybody who watched it would agree, those are the types of fights that keep boxing where it is as one of the top sports. People can't get that same rush in any other sport."

It all adds up to a Matthysse-Maidana matchup at some point.

"I think eventually it's a fight die-hard fans (and) Argentina would love," Diaz said. "But I think right now … their eyes are set on different paths. Will they cross and meet down the road? I believe so. … I see that as one of those fights that doesn't necessarily have to happen tomorrow; it could happen at the end of their careers and it would still be big because they'll bring out the best in each other. It'll be similar to when you have two Mexicans fight. It's about pride, like Barrera-Morales."

Who would win?

"I give the technique edge to Matthysse, but I think Maidana is right there with him," said trainer Kevin Cunningham, who steered Devon Alexander to wins over both men. "With punching power, it's dead even. I think it would be a war. That's a pick 'em fight. But I would love a front row seat." RING

INDUCTION WEEKEND 2013

HALL OF TINGE OF

FAME SADNESS

The saddened citizens of Canastota, N.Y., Carmen Basilio's hometown, acknowledged the passing of their favorite son during the annual parade and in other ways this year.

THE ABSENCE OF THE LATE ARTURO GATTI AND CARMEN BASILIO MADE THE 2013 INDUCTION WEEKEND A SOMBER ONE

By **Bernard Fernandez**

Ed Brophy, the first and only executive director the International Boxing Hall of Fame has had, says the saddest part of his job is the lowering of flags in Canastota, N.Y., to half-staff to mark the death of still another of the IBHOF's 406 current inductees. It happens every year, often more than once, as aging Hall of Famers receive their eternal 10-count, and others, still comparatively young, bid farewell due to reasons other than natural causes.

The 24th annual Induction Weekend – a bit of a misnomer, since the four days of activities always begins on a Thursday – had a familiar tinge of sadness to go along with the standard celebration of what was, is, and shall be inside the ropes. Four Hall of Famers had died since the 2012 festivities concluded, along with a fighter with credentials worthy of future consideration for enshrinement. Brophy and other representatives of the IBHOF reminded the thousands of pilgrims who again had made the trek to the bucolic central New York village to keep former heavyweight contender Jimmy Bivins, legendary trainer Emanuel Steward and artist LeRoy Neiman in their thoughts and prayers, as well as Hector "Macho" Camacho. A former three-division world champion, Camacho was 50 and only 2½ years removed from his

most recent bout when he was shot to death in Puerto Rico last Nov. 24.

But the obligatory tributes to Bivins, Steward, Neiman and Camacho almost necessarily took a back seat to those offered up to Carmen Basilio, 85, a 1990 charter inductee into the IBHOF and the inspiration for its location in his hometown of Canastota, and to Arturo Gatti, who was just 37 when he died under mysterious circumstances in Brazil in 2009. They might have arisen from different eras, but their backgrounds, bop-'til-you-drop styles and almost mystical hold on the public were virtual mirror images of one another. Each elicited devotion that bordered on worship from his legion of fans.

The shadowy presence of Basilio and Gatti stamped this Induction Weekend as something different from those that preceded it. For the first time, the star power of deceased inductees probably exceeded that of the living, which is not to say those who were on hand the afternoon of June 9 were in any way lacking as to the length and breadth of their commendable resumes. Former light heavyweight and cruiserweight champion Virgil "Quicksilver" Hill got the plum assignment as the final inductee to deliver his acceptance speech, but his predecessors at the podium – former junior flyweight champion Myung-Woo Yuh, Tommy Lane (standing in for his father, referee Mills Lane, who was unable to speak for himself as the result of a 2002 stroke), ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. and British journalist Colin Hart – all expressed their gratitude with sincerity and humility.

It was, however, Gatti's trio of

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(1) Mike Greenhill ; (2-4) Jeff Julian

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1. The casting of the fists of the inductees is an annual ritual at the Hall of Fame. **2.** Former welterweight champ Billy Backus, the late Carmen Basilio's nephew, has his own proud legacy. **3.** The mother and daughter of the late Arturo Gatti, as well as manager Pat Lynch (right), were emotional during his induction. **4.** Carlos Palomino was one of 10 welterweights to express their admiration for Basilio during a dinner at the Rusty Nail Party House.

stand-ins – his longtime promoter Kathy Duva, longtime manager Pat Lynch and especially Gatti's 7-year-old daughter, Sofia – who stole the show with remarks that alternately drew a lot of cheers and a few tears.

"Thank you from my daddy," said a smiling, gap-toothed Sofia, hoisted up to the microphone by Lynch.

Duva, acknowledging criticism from those who alleged that Gatti's credentials for induction were somehow lacking, defended his worthiness by quoting from a speech delivered by Theodore Roosevelt at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1910, the year after the 26th president of the United States had left office.

"'It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better,'" said Duva, president of Main Events. "'The credit belongs to the man who actually is in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly … and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while doing greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.'"

The portion of the Roosevelt speech recited by Duva was an eloquent and somewhat flowery way of saying that Gatti, like Basilio, was the type of fighter who would run through hell and back in a gasoline overcoat if necessary. Lacerations, hematomas, sore ribs, busted hands … whatever it took to keep pushing forward, no matter how bleak the outlook might appear at a given moment, true warriors such as themselves were not discour-

aged by an impediment such as physical pain.

How rawhide-tough was Basilio? So much so that the former Marine – who posted a 56-17-7 record, with 27 victories inside the distance in a career that spanned from 1948 to '61 – was a participant in THE RING's Fight of the Year five consecutive times, from 1955 through '59, a streak that is unlikely to be matched, much less broken.

Although none of the speakers at the June 9 induction ceremony had reason to reference Basilio other than in passing, a Friday function at the Rusty Rail Party House – billed as "A Night of Welterweight Warriors" – was essentially a 90-minute love letter to Canastota's favorite son, with 10 outstanding welterweights from different eras recalling just what it was that made the "Upstate Onion Farmer" such a special fighter and, some would say, an even better man.

"The toughest individual that I ever fought, and I fought 71 times," Tony DeMarco, the welterweight champion whom Basilio dethroned on a 12th-round stoppage on June 10, 1955, in Syracuse, said of his most respected opponent. "The reason those fights were great [DeMarco lost a second time to Basilio, again on a 12th-round TKO, 5½ years after their first slugfest] was because I was tough – and he was tougher. He was a great fighter. Durable. Strong. What more can I say?"

Basilio's nephew, Billy Backus, also went on to win the welterweight title. He recalled his uncle, the son of Italian immigrants, as his inspiration and role model. Not that he was the only relative to feel that way.

"I am one of, I think, 42 nephews," Backus said of the progeny

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1. The new inductees – (left to right) Virgil Hill, Myung-Woo Yuh, Jimmy Lennon Jr., Colin Hart and Mills Lane – show off their Hall of Fame rings. **2.** The popular Jake LaMotta, 92 on July 10, never turns away fans who want an autograph or photo. **3.** Fans attending the Boxing Autograph Card Show were thrilled to meet Aaron "The Hawk" Pryor.

Jeff Julian

of Basilio and his nine siblings. "I'm the only crazy bastard that took up boxing. Everybody else went to school. But we all had a hero. Carmen was our hero. He was the star of the family."

Gatti topped Basilio in one respect – he actually was born in Italy – before his family relocated to Montreal, where Gatti was raised. From there he settled in Jersey City, N.J., which served as his base of operations in winning world titles at junior lightweight and junior welterweight, posting a 40-9 record, with 31 KOs, in the process. But it was the way he won – often coming from behind to triumph with dramatic rallies – that made him a fan favorite. And although he didn't equal Basilio's feat of appearing in five straight Fights of the Year, he was a participant in four Fights of the Year (1998, 1999, 2003 and 2004), as cited by either THE RING or the Boxing Writers Association of America.

"That's who I am, that's how I fight," Gatti said prior to the loss of his IBF 126-pound crown on an eighth-round TKO (due to severe cuts) to Angel Manfredy on Jan. 17, 1998. "Fighting the way I do is what made me a world champion. Maybe I could fight a little more cautiously, but that wouldn't be me."

Gatti's death by hanging – ultimately ruled a suicide by Brazilian authorities after police in that country originally had arrested his wife, Brazilian national Amanda Rodrigues Gatti, on murder charges – remains a source of controversy. Lynch, Duva and members of Gatti's family are vehement in their belief that the official cause of death represents a miscarriage of justice.

Whatever the truth of the case is, those who bore witness to

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Gatti's incredible relentlessness aren't apt to forget it. Nobody had a more up-close-and-personal view of that determination than Micky Ward, who went 1-2 against Gatti in three classic bouts that all went to decisions.

"Our styles just meshed," said Ward, who even trained Gatti in what proved to be his final bout, a seventh-round TKO loss to Alfonso Gomez on July 14, 2007, and was in Canastota in support of a man who at once was his dear friend and greatest rival. "It's just a shame that he's not here for his induction. That's why I'm here – to represent him in any way I can and the best way I can. It's about respect. We fought our asses off, we both wanted to win, but once the fight was over we were the best of friends."

It is that aspect of boxing – the personal closeness that can emanate from professional conflict – that gives the sport its unique nature, and what has made Canastota a magnet for everyone who cherishes great fights and great fighters. Brophy expects the 2014 Induction Weekend – the 25th annual such affair, with first-time eligibles Oscar De La Hoya, Felix Trinidad and Joe Calzaghe on the ballot – to surpass the record attendance of 30,000 set in 2011 when Mike Tyson, Julio Cesar Chavez and actor Sylvester Stallone, the movies' Rocky Balboa, topped the marquee.

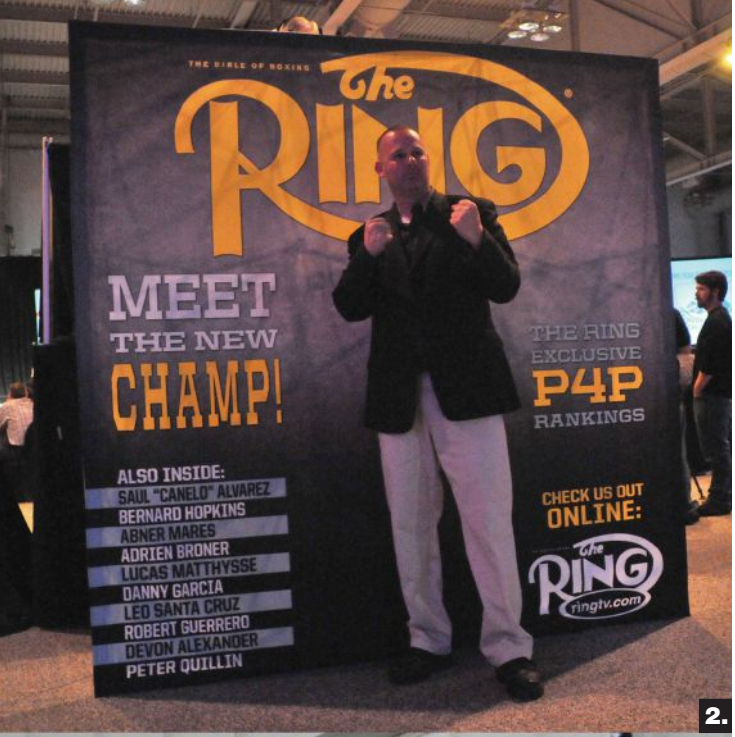
Regardless of who gets the call to the Hall, however, expect many of those enshrined to come back, as is usually the case. Among those who shared the stage for the 2013 induction ceremony were 90-year-old Jake LaMotta, one of the inaugural members of the Class of 1990, and Marvelous Marvin Hagler, 57, a 1993 inductee who again came all the way from his adopted home in Italy.

"It's like a dream that comes true every time I'm up here," said Aaron Pryor, a 1996 inductee who made the trip for the 18th time. "I just feel so happy. It's one of the greatest feelings you could ever have to come to this place.

"It's different, it's special, it's something you look forward to like a little kid looks forward to Christmas. It's every fighter's dream to be here. You can get hooked. If you come here once, you're probably going to come year after year after year."

Between now and the 2014 Induction Weekend, it seems likely those flags at the IBHOF will be at half-staff at some point. All such occasions bring a period of sadness, but also one of reflection and ultimately of celebration. Because Halls of Fame are there to ensure some small degree of immortality for those enshrined, and that seems reason enough to have a place like the IBHOF. RING

(1-3,5) Jeff Julian; (4) Mike Greenhill



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1. Referee Mills Lane refused to miss his induction in spite of ongoing challenges after suffering a stroke. 2. A fan becomes THE RING cover boy at the Banquet of Champions. 3. Promoter Kathy Duva's impassioned speech in honor of Arturo Gatti was one of the most memorable moments of the weekend. 4. Jimmy Lennon Jr. is letting you know that Julian Jackson still has pop in his punch. 5. Virgil Hill savored every moment of his induction.

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CLASS OF 2014

The residents of Canastota, N.Y., site of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, should brace themselves: 2014 is going to be huge.

Among those eligible for induction next year are Oscar De La Hoya, Felix Trinidad and Joe Calzaghe, three of the most popular fighters of their era. Each figures to draw a large and enthusiastic contingent to induction weekend, which could push overall crowds to record levels.

Here's a look at the big three for 2014:

OSCAR DE LA HOYA

Hometown: Los Angeles
Record: 39-6, 30 KOs
Titles: 11 titles in six weight classes
Background: "The Golden Boy" was the face of the sport during his peak, drawing huge crowds wherever he went and generating big pay-per-view numbers every time he stepped into the ring. He also debunked the infamous label "Chicken De La Hoya" by facing all the best fighters in and around his weight class. He fought 10 current or likely Hall of Famers. He lost several of his biggest fights – to Trinidad, Shane Mosley (twice), Bernard Hopkins, Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao – but also beat the likes of Julio Cesar Chavez, Fernando Vargas and Ike Quartey. And no one would question his imprint on the sport, which continues today as a promoter.

FELIX TRINIDAD

Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico
Record: 42-3, 35 KOs
Titles: Five titles in three weight classes
Background: The idol of Puerto Rico was one of the most exciting fighters of any era, able to end any fight in an instant with crushing punching power. A number of elite fighters couldn't withstand his power, including Vargas. He had a long run as IBF welterweight titleholder, wearing the belt for almost seven years. His biggest victory was a decision over De La Hoya in 1999. Trinidad ran into trouble once he ventured above 154 pounds but had already left his mark as one of the best – and most loved – of the past two decades.

JOE CALZAGHE

Hometown: Newbridge, Wales
Record: (46-0, 32 KOs)
Titles: Six titles in two weight classes
Background: No fighter was more popular among his countrymen than Calzaghe, who won the hearts of the Welsh with his all-around ability – including quick hands, athleticism and fighting spirit – good looks and charisma. He won all four of the major titles and THE RING belt in the 168-pound division. He wore the WBO belt for more than a decade, including a division-record 21 successful defenses. He fought in the U.S. for the first time in 2008, winning THE RING light heavyweight championship by beating Bernard Hopkins and outclassing Roy Jones Jr. He then joined an exclusive club by retiring undefeated.

Note: Titles listed above are limited to THE RING and the major sanctioning bodies (WBC, IBF, WBA and WBO).

Larry Holmes (top), Emile Griffith (middle) and Lennox Lewis were all masters of the jab.

Holmes: Holly Stein/Allsport; Griffith: The Ring Magazine/Getty Images; Lewis: Simon Bruty/Getty Images

BOXING'S MOST FUNDAMENTAL PUNCH IS ALSO ONE OF ITS VANISHING ARTS

By **Gordon Marino**

"Snap it like a towel!" That's how Larry Holmes, one of the best jabbers in history, explains firing the king of all punches.

Teddy Atlas once quipped, "Everything starts and ends with the jab." A good jab will keep your foe at bay and it sets up the big punch. Historically speaking, it was the jab combined with lateral movement, perhaps in the person of James J. Corbett, that transformed brawling into the sweet science.

While all sweet scientists concur on the importance of the jab, there is less agreement on how to throw it.

As a young man, I was privileged to train in the same gym with Emile Griffith. The multi-division champion was in his early 40s and at the far edge of his career. After I sparred one day, he pulled me aside and generously offered this advice, "Keep your elbow in when you jab. As soon as you lift your elbow the other guy can see the jab coming. Keep it straight; don't hook it." It was wise counsel from a Zen master of the American martial art. However, when I ran the same advice by Holmes, he shrugged and suggested the elbow wasn't important.

Go figure. Maybe proper jab technique depends on body type and styles. But here are some notes from the gurus of the guild of the glove.

The late boxing immortal Angelo Dundee imparted these thoughts: "The key to the jab is keeping your knees bent, not so much that you make yourself short but enough so that you don't dip down and telegraph the jab when you go to throw it."

Dundee was actually making the same point as Griffith. The best thing you can do is cloak your punches and avoid giving your opponent extra time to react.

In his inimitable south Philly accent, Dundee continued: "Unlike a lot of other trainers I don't tell my fighters to step in with the jab. When you do that, you are liable to get clobbered by a right. Feint and slide in. Don't punch until you are in range and can reach the guy."

One of Dundee's close friends and rivals, Emanuel Steward, also was a champion of the jab. During the last years of his life, Steward traveled the land offering clinics for trainers. Steward was concerned that the art of the trainer/cornerman that he worked hard to master was not being passed along.

I was in the front row of his last clinic. During a break, Steward offered a little tutorial on the jab: "You don't want to get too much weight on the front foot when you're jabbing." The Dean of the Kronk, who was a fundamentalist about balance, recalled that when he trained Miguel Cotto for Yuri Foreman, one of the few things he sought to change was Miguel's center of gravity. "Miguel had a great jab," he said, "but he didn't use it because he was left-hook crazy and he was always leaning forward and easy to hit."

Lennox Lewis, one of Steward's prize students, possessed one of the premier jabs in heavyweight history. He said: "The jab is a range finder, a weapon, it also picks up danger coming in. Jabbing is like fencing. You snap it out there straight and hard and slide in a little but always keeping your weight centered. Throw it well and your opponent will be so focused on the jab that he won't be thinking about the right, just about protecting himself from that jab. Manny used to say 'if you can land it once, double it up.' And after you jab, don't stay in the same place. Take an angle."

Steward stressed: "When you are working with your boxers,

make sure that they work the jab coming in but also sliding back. You need to keep that jab out there even when you are moving away." And, of course, when you throw the jab, you want to bring it back straight so as to avoid the kind of right hand counter that Max Schmeling used to knock out Joe Louis in their first meeting. A lot of trainers underscore "bring it back as fast as it went out."

Tommy Hearns made a surprise visit during that same Las Vegas workshop. Seeming to walk out of the shadows, the Hitman stepped to the podium and threw his arms around the man who had long been in his corner in many more ways than one. In their book of lists, Bert Sugar and Teddy Atlas ranked the long-armed Hearns as the all-time king of the jab!

After some emotion-charged words on the role Steward played in his life, Hearns pointed out, "You have to have two jabs: the regular hard, snapping kind and another that you use when you are looking to land the right." Hearns went on: "You need to throw a soft jab when you want to follow with a right, otherwise you'll push the guy out of range."

In a recent phone conversation, George Foreman echoed Hearns' point. "When I was training for the Olympics, they kept telling me to jab. But my jab was so powerful it pushed guys across the ring and I would almost fall over trying to hit them with my right. … Look at the Holyfield tape. Whenever I would land the jab, I knocked him across the ring. I finally learned when I fought Michael Moorer. Before that fight, I would go hit the bag at my house. I made myself just slap with it, keeping my hand just a little open." He chuckled. "It was enough to make me cry. I was doing everything completely different than the way I had been taught. But it worked!" We all remember the crushing right that put Moorer to sleep in the 10th frame of that championship fight.

Foreman reflected on some of the nuances of the punch. "Jabbing to the body is very dangerous, because you are always open for that right-hand counter," he said. "So I would jab at the guy's chest, and if I missed, it would push him back – off balance and too far away to hit me

The Ring Magazine/Getty Images

with his right."

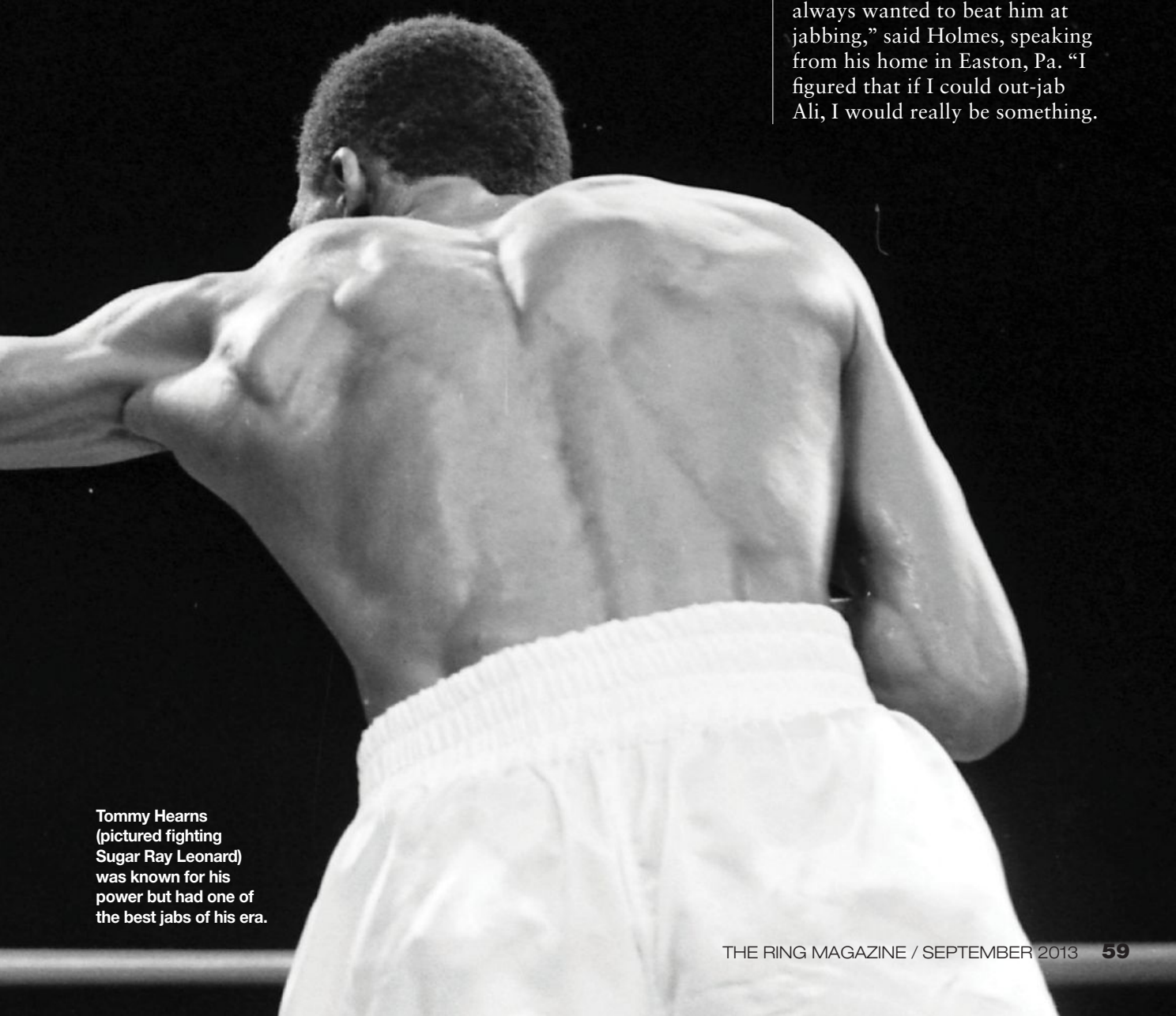
Big George went on: "When I worked with Sandy Saddler, he was all about the power jab, about knocking guys out with it. And I could make a fella drunk with one or two jabs. But Archie Moore, whom I also worked with, emphasized "spinning" the jab. Turning the hand over (from thumb up to knuckles up) and getting it out there and back as fast as possible. Archie could double and triple it up and follow it with a right."

Foreman was on a riff: "Ali was the same way. His jab wasn't hard. It would come from different angles – from high, then low. You had to be coming at him for his jab to be effective. … I don't know what Ali would have done in Zaire if I hadn't gone chasing after him. He really needed you to be coming at him for his jab to work. After he popped you with it, he would go straight back, not to the side like you are supposed to."

Foreman sparred many rounds with Sonny Liston early in his career. Dundee knew a thing or three about Liston and once confided: "Liston had a telephone pole for a jab. He could murder you with it."

Foreman concurred. "Sonny could take your head off with a jab," he said. "But it was almost like a slap. Maybe that's why it was so quick. He would throw it to the left side of your head. And he could time you perfectly with it. … I always used to wait for the other guy to jab. But Sonny was one of the few fighters who could come and get you with the jab."

Larry Holmes, who always licked his chops for a bout with Foreman, had both the Ali and Liston jab. "I sparred with Ali all of the time and I always wanted to beat him at jabbing," said Holmes, speaking from his home in Easton, Pa. "I figured that if I could out-jab Ali, I would really be something.



Tommy Hearns (pictured fighting Sugar Ray Leonard) was known for his power but had one of the best jabs of his era.

George Foreman (left) said he knocked Evander Holyfield across the ring every time he landed a good jab, which made it difficult to follow up.

THE PROPER JAB

KEYS TO THROWING THE PUNCH (WITH AN ORTHODOX VS. ORTHODOX MATCHUP IN MIND)

- Avoid telegraphing. Bend your knees enough so that you don't have to drop down when you jab. Avoid bringing your elbow out before you punch.
- Bring your jab back straight and as quickly as it went out.
- Don't "bow and arrow." That is, don't drop your right or pull it way back as you jab.
- To get a little more pop in your jab push off your back foot and slide forward as you jab – but be careful.
- Turn your front hip slightly. Make sure that your back heel is off the canvas and your calf engaged.
- When you double the jab up don't bring it back all the way.
- Keep your weight centered. Don't pitch forward when you jab because it will leave you open to a powerful counter punch.

Note: Gordon Marino based this chart on countless discussions with prominent trainers.

Allsport/Allsport

The main thing with the jab is to keep it loose. Use it like a whip! Whip it out there like you would snap a towel. Your hand is not completely closed, maybe quarter of an inch open."

In a textbook fashion, Holmes would always pop his opponent with his left and then slide to one side or the other, making his opponent turn, a la Bernard Hopkins against Kelly Pavlik.

You won't always reach your opponent with that first jab; you want to double it. "Again, keep it loose, bring it back maybe 75 to 90 percent of the way," Holmes said, and then added, "Going to the body, I would dip a little to the right, snap it to the body then go up top with it and try to follow with a right."

"When I really wanted to hurt someone with the jab, I would step in with it." Here Holmes alluded to his 1979 scrap with Ossie Ocasio as perhaps the night his piston jab was pumping the best.

Among other suggestions for making your jab more explosive is to make sure your rear calf is engaged, which is to say your back heal is off the floor as though you might be throwing a football. Also, an ever-so-slight turn in the lead hip puts some more zip on the jab. But be careful not to turn it too much.

When asked why so many boxers just give up the jab, Hopkins thought for a moment, smiled and replied: "I really don't know. It's crazy to stop jabbing." Holmes chuckled when asked the same question: "They give up on it because they don't know how to jab. … I'm 63 and I could still beat most heavyweights out there because I know how to jab."

And Holmes wasn't leaving out the pound-for-pound best for critique. "(Floyd) Mayweather (Jr.) has a good jab but he doesn't use it enough," he said. "He just uses it to set up his right. Right now maybe he throws 30 percent jabs but it should be 60 percent."

Freddie Roach also had something to say about Mayweather and the jab, namely that the best defensive boxer of our era is relatively easy to hit down the middle with a jab. Of course, "Money" makes most opponents stop jabbing when he hits you with that taser of a right-hand counter. But that, said Roach, was not the issue when he fought Oscar De La Hoya. "He was beating Floyd with the jab until about the eighth round," Roach said. De La Hoya said that his shoulder stiffened up around that time, but Roach saw matters differently. "Oscar stopped being able to cut off the ring." And when you can't keep the other guy in front of you, the jab is of no use. That was a connection I had never made – between cutting off the ring and preserving the effectiveness of the jab.

There is some debate as to whether or not to turn the jab over, thumb vertical to thumb horizontal. The thinking is that when the hand turns over, the shoulder muscles become engaged and your jab has more "umph." On the other hand, some think that the little turn requires a millisecond and cuts into the speed of the jab – and maybe even brings out the tell-tale elbow.

Wladimir Klitschko boasts a fast and concussive jab. On average, Klitschko connects with 16 punches per round and 10 of those scoring blows are jabs. That is twice the average connect rate for elite professionals.

Dr. Steelhammer loves to peck away and hypnotize with what really is a hammer – and then let the deadly arrow of his right fly. "The best jab is when you don't think about it and it's at the target already without you knowing it," he said. "Sometimes your thumb is up, sometimes it's down. There is no rule for it. It all depends on timing and the situation during the fight."

Hall-of-Famer Virgil Hill also had a rapier for a jab. Trained by Eddie Futch and Futch's mentee, Freddie Roach, Hill was a converted southpaw. "Eddie liked to get that power hand up front," Hill said. "After all, if the jab is going to be the punch that you throw the most, then why not have it coming from your powerful side."

Hill noted one of his favorite shots: "I liked to slip the other guy's left jab to the outside and plant my own counter shot to the solar plexus. It was a hard shot. I knocked a few guys out with my jab." Pressed as to how to jab against a southpaw, Hill responded: "No difference. Same thing. You are actually closer to the other guy so it should be easier. I didn't think about it any differently at all, but again, I loved to use that jab to the body against lefties."

Bob Canobbio, the founder of CompuBox, believes that the beauty of the jab is in decline. Canobbio, who has compiled data on over 5,000 fights, said fighters are throwing it perhaps more than ever but their connect percentage is low. Across all weight divisions, the average land percentage is five jabs per round.

On Canobbio's score sheet, Pernell Whitaker is the jab champion. "Considering the data for 23 of Pernell's fights – almost all against top notch opponents – Pernell landed 13 jabs per round," he said. "He scored with 38 percent of his jabs. Against Hall of Famer Azumah Nelson, Whitaker averaged 24 jab connects per round."

So far as effective jabbing goes, there isn't anyone in Whitaker's league today. That illustrates Larry Holmes's point: The jab is a lost art.

THE REAL DEAL

Floyd Mayweather Jr. (left) and Saul "Canelo" Alvarez kick off what promised to be a memorable promotion.

Ed Mulholland/WireImage

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. AND CANELO ALVAREZ'S AGREEMENT TO FIGHT ONE ANOTHER GIVES FANS A RARE SUPERFIGHT

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Dream fights are the ones that don't happen. They're fiction, or folly, or a future video game. They live only in the imagination and never within the ropes. Lennox Lewis-Riddick Bowe? Michael Carbajal-Ricardo Lopez? Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr.? Never been there, never done that. Pick the era, pick the weight class and there they are, junk food for fantasy freaks.

Once in a while, though, a Canelo Alvarez-versus-Mayweather fills the void with something tantalizingly real. No need for an empty daydream about this one. Barring injury or some other unforeseen circumstance, it will happen on Sept. 14 at Las Vegas' MGM Grand. The many possibilities include a defining drama or a nightmarish mismatch or a rematch. Until the opening bell, however, the victory is in the deal. Fans, tired of the Top

THE REAL DEAL

Rank-Golden Boy Promotions feud and cynical about futile Pacquiao-Mayweather talks, finally won one.

A path to the deal was there because the familiar front lines in the promotional conflict weren't in the way. Canelo is a Golden Boy fighter. Golden Boy represents Mayweather. Top Rank was a mere spectator. Still, negotiations weren't as simple as connecting the dots. The promotional landscape was just a beginning. A bout with Canelo looked possible, but more likely near the end instead of just the second fight in a 30-month Showtime contract with Mayweather for as many as six fights and as much as $250 million.

Sept. 14 appeared to have about as much of a chance as Robert Guerrero had in losing a lopsided decision to Mayweather on May 4. But timing, Canelo's youthful ambition, Mayweather's shrewd calculus, Canelo's rock star-like status among Mexican fans, Mayweather's strengthening claim on the pound-for-pound's mythical title, numbers and money added up to an agreement for a fight the public wants and Showtime needs.

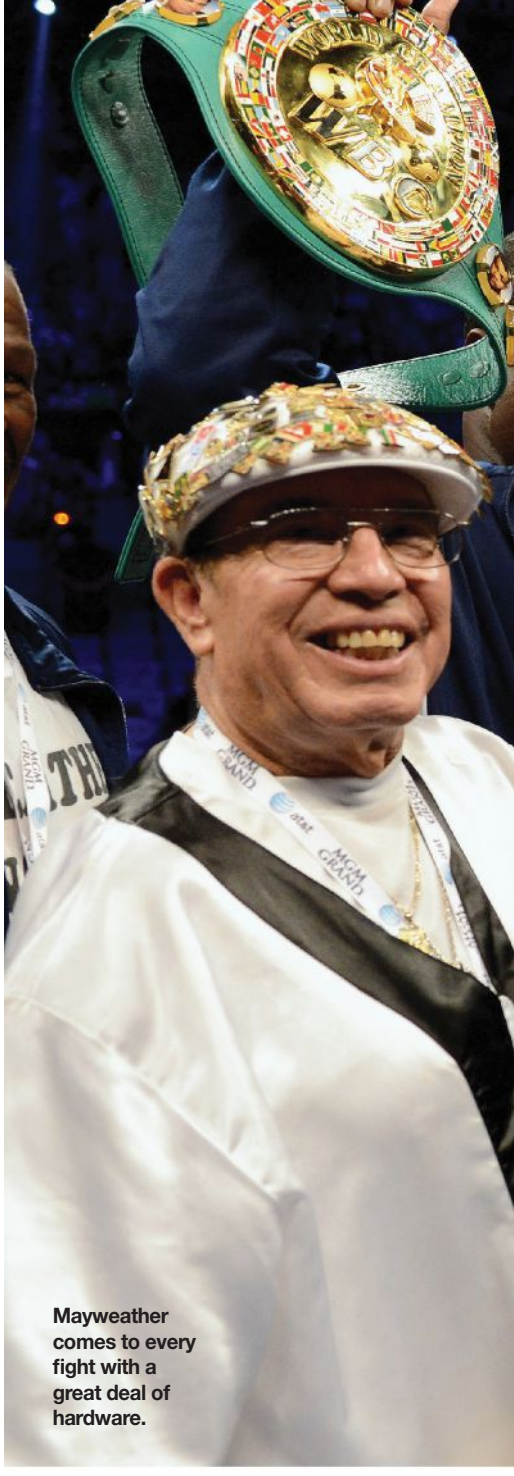
The seeds of momentum might have been planted in disappointment. The first bout under the Showtime contract fell short of pay-per-view expectations. Initial reports from various media sources after Mayweather's unanimous decision over Guerrero put the buy rate at 875,000.

Showtime announced it expected that number to eventually exceed one million. Six weeks after the fight, however, there had been no confirmation on whether it had. If it is still at 875,000, Showtime lost $12 million, according to *Forbes*. The loss was sustained in large part because of Mayweather's guarantee, $32.5 million according to a contract filed with the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Showtime, a CBS subsidiary, is like any other business. Profit-and-loss is the bottom line. Motivation is in those numbers. A CBS accountant not looking to cover that loss as quickly as possible is probably a former CBS employee. Mayweather, too, is looking to augment his income. He wouldn't be nicknamed Money if he wasn't searching for ways to make more. He gets an undisclosed percentage of pay-per-view receipts. Speculation is that Mayweather did not collect much more than his guarantee. In effect, the Showtime deal makes him a virtual partner with the cable network. How to reverse an early loss and perhaps turn it into a profit? Turn to Canelo.

Canelo emerged from Mayweather's predictable and perhaps necessary bout against Guerrero as the biggest winner. Above all, Canelo proved he was a star in his right by fighting and beating Austin

(continued on page 67)



Mayweather comes to every fight with a great deal of hardware.

10 QUESTIONS: MAYWEATHER VS. ALVAREZ

By **Michael Rosenthal**

1. WILL MAYWEATHER'S AGE SHOW?

It has to happen at some point, right? We thought we saw some erosion in his unanimous-decision victory over Miguel Cotto, who was able to land more punches than we're used to seeing Mayweather take. However, the master, with his father's help, shored up his defense and looked like the hit-and-not-be-hit wizard of old in an easy victory over Robert Guerrero. The guess here is that Mayweather, 36, can hide any deterioration with his remarkable ring smarts for at least a few more fights.

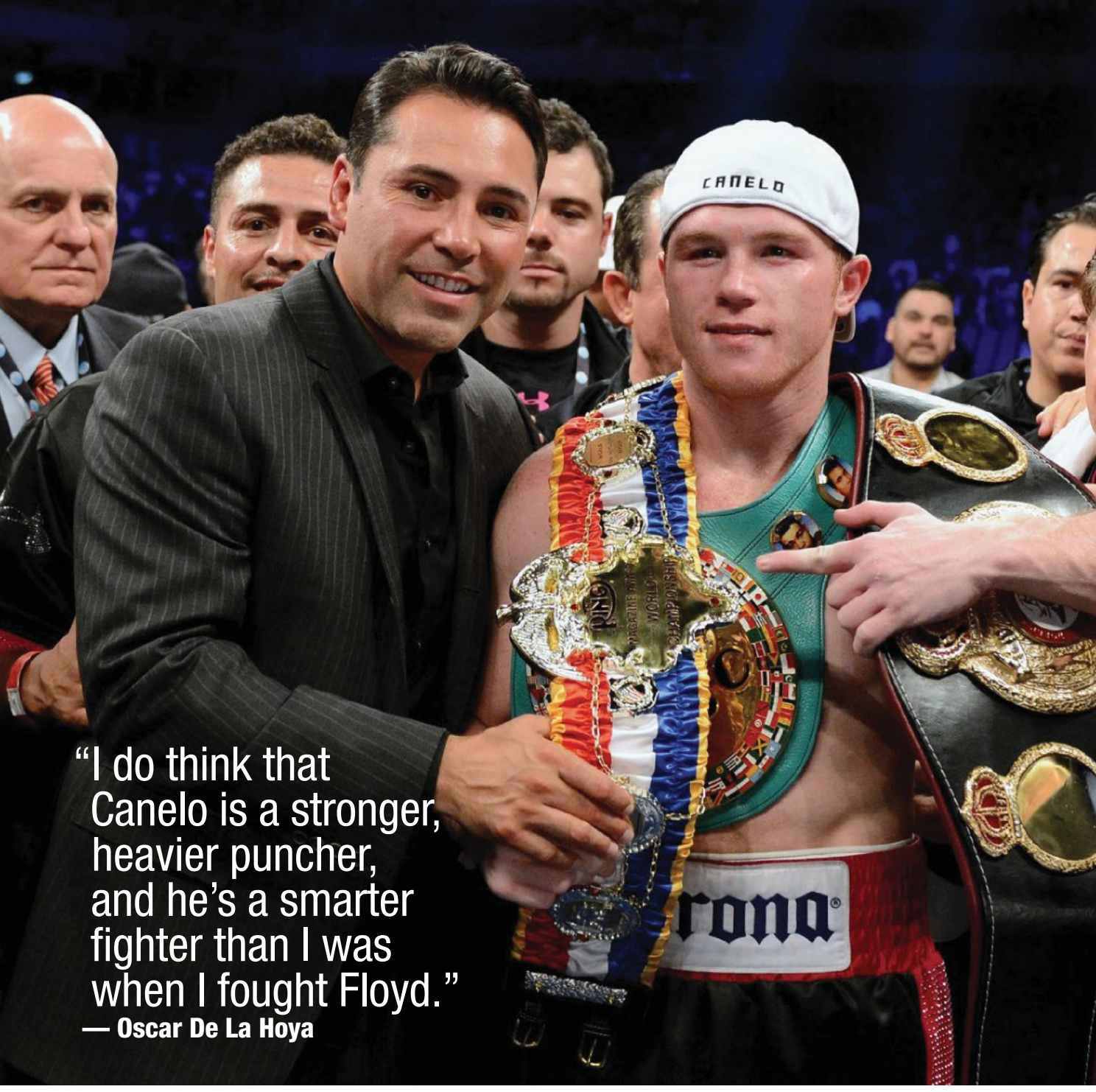
The first bout under the Showtime contract fell short of pay-per-view expectations. Initial reports from various media sources after Mayweather's unanimous decision over Guerrero put the buy rate at 875,000.

2. WILL THE CATCHWEIGHT HURT ALVAREZ?

"It's only two pounds," you might say in reference to the agreed-upon catchweight of 152 even though the junior welterweight limit is 154. A couple pounds can make a difference, though. Alvarez will have to deprive himself a little more and push himself a little harder, which could take a toll in the ring. He can't afford to fade down the stretch for lack of energy. I doubt this will be a major factor but it's safe to say that the below-the-limit weight won't work in Alvarez's favor.

3. WILL ALVAREZ'S NATURAL SIZE ADVANTAGE BE A FACTOR?

Ability almost always trumps size and strength – almost always. Alvarez is the bigger and almost certainly the stronger of the two, which would work in his favor if the fighters' skill levels were comparable. Clearly that's not the case, though. So the question is this: Does Alvarez have enough ability – skills, athleticism, speed, etc. – to make his size and strength advantage meaningful? Most knowledgeable observers would probably answer with a resounding "no."



"I do think that Canelo is a stronger, heavier puncher, and he's a smarter fighter than I was when I fought Floyd."
— Oscar De La Hoya

4. WILL FIGHTING AT 152 POUNDS SLOW DOWN MAYWEATHER?

Mayweather said that Cotto was able land punches with some consistency because his defensive skills weren't as fine-tuned as usual, which prompted him to bring his defense-minded father back as his trainer. Could it have been instead that Mayweather, who weighed in at 151, lost a step because he was fighting at junior middleweight? Mayweather looked quick – and his defense was tight – against Guerrero, but Guerrero is relatively slow. The added weight combined with his age could work against Mayweather.

5. IS ALVAREZ READY FOR THIS?

Alvarez surprised the boxing world by outboxing the boxer, using movement and well-timed blows to outpoint a very good technician in Austin Trout in his most recent fight. No victory did more for the Mexican's credibility in terms of his boxing skills. That said, it's a giant leap from Trout to Mayweather. Alvarez, only 22 and with a limited amateur background, is a work in progress. His best lies ahead. That might be why Mayweather accepted this challenge when he did.

Alvarez is beginning to build his collection of belts.

Trout on April 20 in San Antonio instead of on the May 4 undercard as part of Mayweather's supporting cast. Canelo, who moved off the May 4 card when he couldn't get a guarantee that Mayweather would fight him in September, drew a crowd of 39,247 to the Alamodome.

Had Canelo agreed to stay on the Mayweather-Guerrero undercard, there might have been a bigger pay-per-view audience. But it's safe to say that Mayweather would have taken credit for a big buy rate. When hasn't he? The Alamodome crowd, however, was indisputable. It was evidence of Canelo's own star power and perhaps a hint at his own understanding of finances. Showtime and Mayweather needed numbers and Canelo had them.

Canelo also has captured the Mexican and Mexican-American market, the single most important demographic in boxing. Sept. 14 coincides with the celebration of Mexican Independence on Sept. 16. Mayweather, who wore a sombrero into the ring in acknowledgement of Mexican fans before a 2007 victory over Oscar De La Hoya in a Cinco de Mayo bout, needed a prominent Mexican fighter in September 2013.

With Top Rank-promoted Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. fading after a loss last September to Sergio Martinez and a subsequent positive test for marijuana, is there any Mexican fighter more prominent than Canelo? If Mayweather's opponent had been, say, Devon Alexander instead of Canelo, there might have been another Mexican Revolution.

Canelo acted as though he instinctively knew that he had some leverage at the table. Trainer Edison Reynoso likes to talk about Canelo's intelligence, which he says will be the equal of what Mayweather faced in victories over Juan Manuel Marquez and De La Hoya.

"He's smart, very smart," Reynoso said.

Business smart, too.

Canelo's guaranteed purse won't be disclosed until contracts are filed with the Nevada State Athletic Commission during the week before the bout at the Grand Garden Arena. According to various sources, he'll collect a lot more than Guerrero, who got $3 million, or about 11 times less than Mayweather's guarantee.

Canelo's guarantee is expected to be closer to what Miguel Cotto got in losing to Mayweather in May of last year. Cotto was guaranteed $8 million and wound up with about $10 million, or about 25 percent of Mayweather's final take, which was reported to be about $40 million. There's speculation that Mayweather's biggest payday ever will be against

6. WHICH FIGHTER IS MORE LIKELY TO HURT THE OTHER?

Our collective minds go back to the moment when Shane Mosley buckled Mayweather's knees before succumbing to the superior boxer's ability. That was a welterweight fight. Alvarez is a big, strong 154-pounder with considerable punching power. It's not inconceivable that he could ring Mayweather's bell. Meanwhile, Mayweather has been known to break his opponents down with fast, accurate shots round after round until they're ripe for a knockout. Someone will probably get hurt. But who?

7. WILL THE PROMOTION APPROACH 2 MILLION PAY-PER-VIEW BUYS?

The U.S. pay-per-view record of 2.4 million – Oscar De La Hoya-Mayweather in 2007 – would seem to be untouchable. Neither Mayweather nor Alvarez has the star power of the Golden Boy. A buy rate of 1.5 million or higher isn't out of the question, though. That would make it one of the biggest promotions ever. What makes it so big? Mayweather is a superstar who is facing an opponent deemed a worthy challenger and a huge attraction – particularly among Mexicans – in his own right.

THE REAL DEAL

Canelo. Let's say Mayweather winds up with $55 million. That means Canelo could wind up with $13.75 million. Not bad for a 23-year-old fighter.

No matter how it's calculated, Canelo's drawing power has made him more of an equal, a business partner, than an employee, which was Guerrero's role in what was arguably a tune-up in Mayweather's first fight since time in jail for domestic abuse.

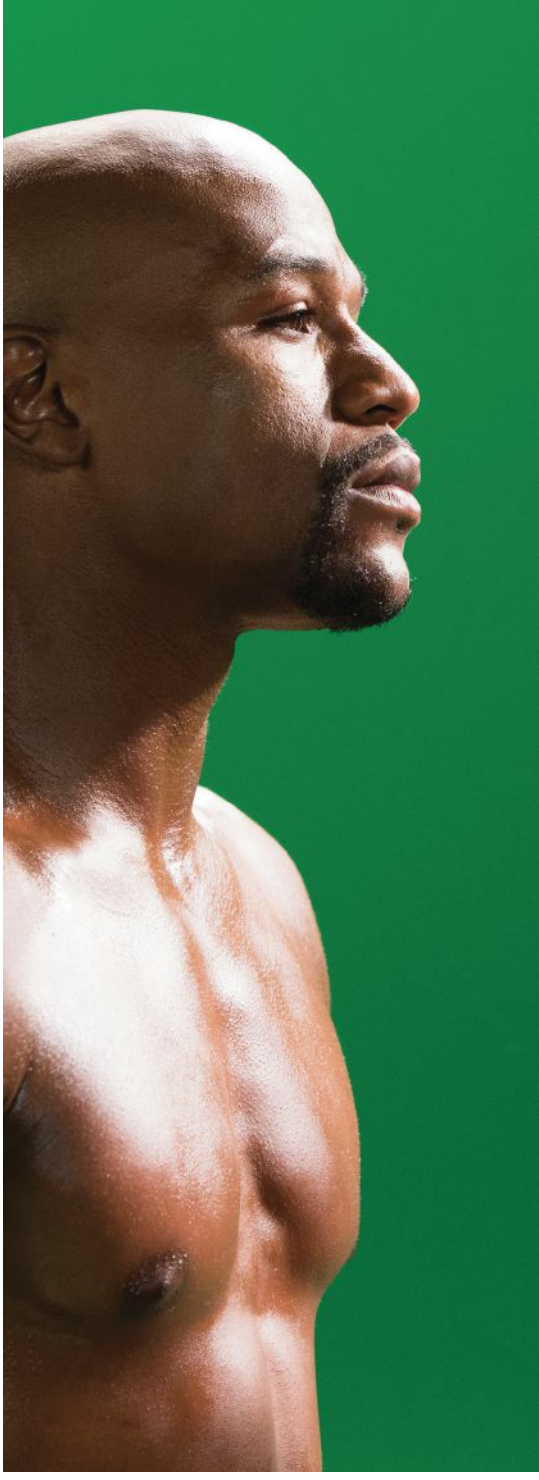
Unknown, however, is whether Canelo has any chance in the ring against the calculating Mayweather, whose many titles include one as an acknowledged master of the risk-to-reward ratio. The theory is that Mayweather studied Canelo enough to know he can beat him easily with slick footwork and precise counters. Mayweather called Guerrero flat-footed, which is often the same criticism of Canelo. Canelo showed more head movement and defense in scoring a decision over the Trout, a slick left-hander. But there was some debate about scorecards that had Canelo winning 118-109, 116-111 and 115-112. The junior-middleweight fight was closer and papered over some of his weaknesses, some argued.

Mayweather hasn't said what he thought of the scoring or Canelo, who knocked down Trout in the seventh round. But the 12-round bout was most revealing, perhaps, for further signs that Canelo has a habit of getting tired. Against Trout, fatigue was evident midway through the bout.

There's been a lot of talk about a 152-pound catchweight agreed to by Canelo in negotiations conducted by Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer. Initially, it was thought that the weight would be an insurmountable issue. At first, Mayweather said the fight would be only at welterweight, 147 pounds, his natural weight.

Mayweather also had been dismissive about catchweights, especially in any talk about Pacquiao. The thinking was that Mayweather would not consider a catchweight. But that was before disappointing pay-per-view numbers for his victory over Guerrero were reported. Perhaps, those numbers added up to reasons that helped change his mind. He told Canelo to come down to 150 pounds from his usual 154. They split the difference and agreed on 152.

A couple of pounds almost sounds cosmetic. If the Mexican redhead can lose a few dozen freckles, he'll get there, right? Maybe, maybe not. Fatigue has been evident when Canelo has only had to make 154. Two more pounds might only add to chances that Mayweather



8. WHAT IF MAYWEATHER LOSES?

That's easy: Rematch. Mayweather demanded a rematch clause in the contract, which some might interpret as a sign of doubt in himself. The decision made absolute sense from a business standpoint, though. Mayweather-Alvarez figures to generate a huge pay-per-view number, which will translate into a huge payday for everyone who gets a percentage of the profits. The rematch presumably would be even bigger if Alvarez somehow pulls off the upset. Mayweather at 44-1 might be more marketable than Mayweather at 45-0.

9. WHAT IF ALVAREZ LOSES?

Alvarez really can't lose. If he loses the fight, he can say, "Hey, Mayweather is the best boxer in the world and I'm only 23. It was a learning experience." Plus he'll walk away with a career-high eight-figure payday, an amount that would make almost any risk worthwhile in prizefighting. Alvarez should just hope to avoid the fate of Juan Manuel Marquez, who looked inept when he fought Mayweather. Even that wouldn't be the end of the world, though. Marquez survived the setback and got back on track.

Mayweather (left) might be facing his biggest challenge since Oscar De La Hoya in 2007.

will see that fatigue earlier and perhaps more often on Sept. 14. Against Trout, Canelo often lunged awkwardly, leaving him for the precise kind of right counters that Mayweather uses with such wicked precision.

For Mayweather, the problem rests in Canelo's heavy hands and youth. Canelo's combinations are dangerous and, at 36, Mayweather has lost some of the foot speed that allowed him to dance out of harm's way. Evidence that Mayweather can get tagged was there in swelling around bruised eyes in his unanimous decision over Cotto in a junior middleweight fight at the MGM Grand.

Mayweather likes to say that it's not cool to take punishment. But he took plenty of it against Cotto, who then was years beyond his prime. Seven months later, Trout capitalized with an upset unanimous decision over the tough, skilled Puerto Rican in New York. If Canelo can also get to Mayweather and with heavier shots, can he be the first to beat him in 45 fights?

"I do think that Canelo is a stronger, heavier puncher, and he's a smarter fighter than I was when I fought Floyd," said De La Hoya, the Golden Boy Promotions president and founder who lost a split-decision to Mayweather in May 2007 in a bout that set the pay-per-view record with a buy rate of 2.4 million. "I never threw five or six punches in a row against an elite fighter like Austin Trout the way Canelo did in San Antonio. He stood right in front of him, moving, dodging and boxing. I never did that stuff."

But it is stuff learned through experience and from skilled fighters, none of whom are more skilled than Mayweather. Canelo has 43 fights, only one fewer than Mayweather, who is about 13 years his senior. Canelo, who is just few years out of his teens, is still learning.

A Canelo loss would hardly be the end for a fighter who, for the moment, looks as if he is just in the beginning stages of becoming another Mexican legend. A narrow loss on the scorecards to Mayweather might prove to be a victory on a couple of levels.

It would further cement Mayweather's attempt at history. If he fulfills the Showtime contract with five more fights and wins each, he could retire at 49-0, equaling Rocky Marciano's 49-0, an American standard.

A loss for Canelo would mean a chance at redemption, which is often more important to a boxing legend than even an unbeaten record. The boxing story is best told if there is at least one chapter about overcoming adversity. To wit: Would Muhammad Ali be the icon he is today if he had not come back from a crushing loss to Joe Frazier?

A close decision in Mayweather's favor also might set up a rematch, which would be a sure way for Showtime to profit from its huge investment in Mayweather. One rematch would make everybody richer and the contract easier to fulfill. A trilogy? That's probably Showtime's dream.

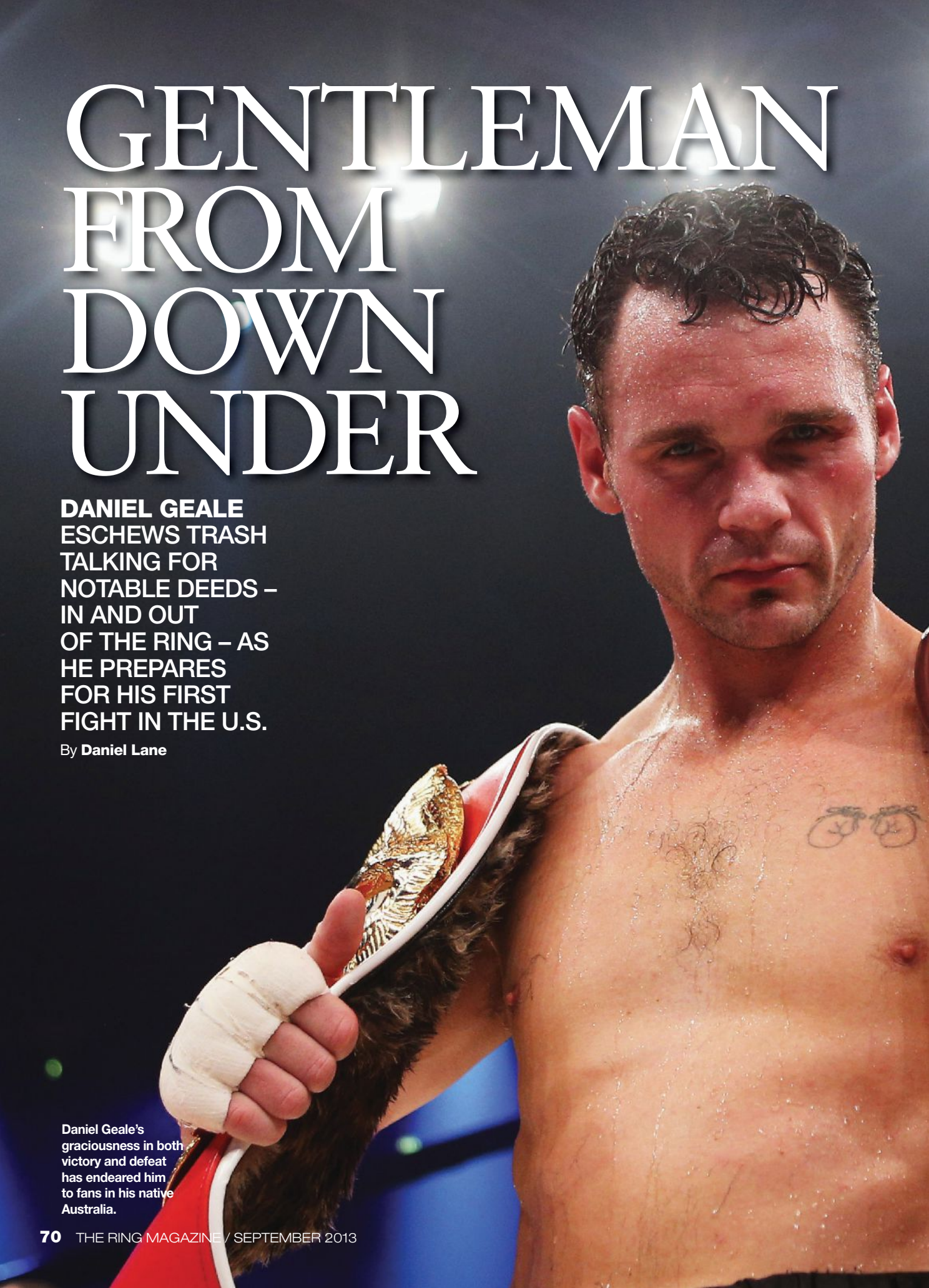
10. WHAT IF ALVAREZ WINS?

No one will supplant Julio Cesar Chavez Sr. in the hearts of fans, who revere him as godlike. Make no mistake, though: If Alvarez finds a way to beat Mayweather – particularly if it comes in dramatic fashion – he will become an enormous icon in a country that loves its boxing. And it won't stop there. An upset over Mayweather would reverberate across the sports world, lifting Alvarez to superstar status and giving boxing a much-needed shot in the arm. It wouldn't be Tyson-Douglas but it would be big.

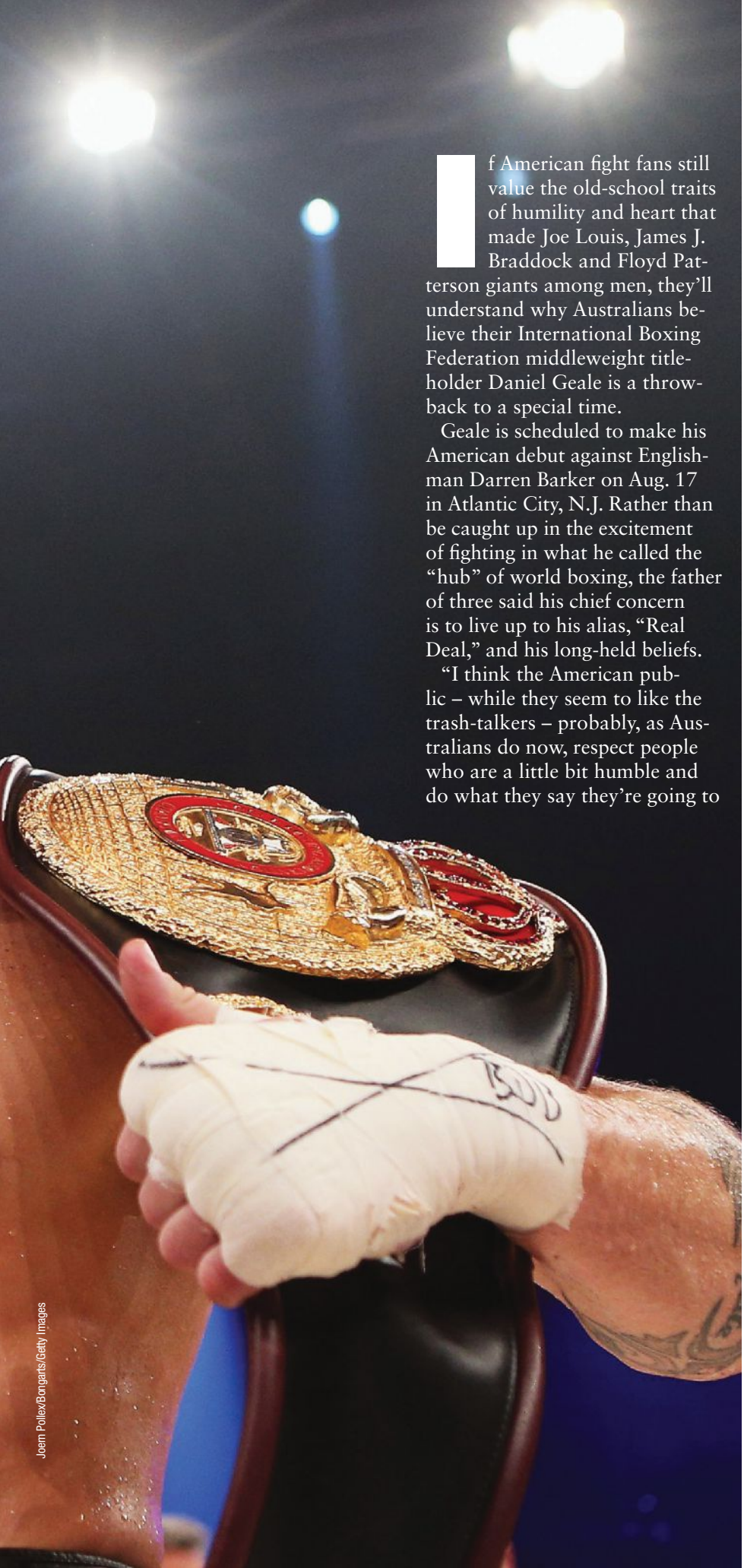
GENTLEMAN FROM DOWN UNDER

DANIEL GEALE ESCHEWS TRASH TALKING FOR NOTABLE DEEDS – IN AND OUT OF THE RING – AS HE PREPARES FOR HIS FIRST FIGHT IN THE U.S.

By **Daniel Lane**



Daniel Geale's graciousness in both victory and defeat has endeared him to fans in his native Australia.



Joern Pollex/Bongarts/Getty Images

If American fight fans still value the old-school traits of humility and heart that made Joe Louis, James J. Braddock and Floyd Patterson giants among men, they'll understand why Australians believe their International Boxing Federation middleweight titleholder Daniel Geale is a throwback to a special time.

Geale is scheduled to make his American debut against Englishman Darren Barker on Aug. 17 in Atlantic City, N.J. Rather than be caught up in the excitement of fighting in what he called the "hub" of world boxing, the father of three said his chief concern is to live up to his alias, "Real Deal," and his long-held beliefs.

"I think the American public – while they seem to like the trash-talkers – probably, as Australians do now, respect people who are a little bit humble and do what they say they're going to do and not just talk 'bad' about everybody," Geale said. "It's taken a little bit longer for me to fight in the U.S. than I wanted but I was never going to change [and talk trash to get attention].

"I'm a quiet guy. I was always going to do it my way."

He also hopes the bout in New Jersey might finally put a 'face' to perhaps boxing's best kept secret.

"I hope this fight will be a turning point in that respect," he said. "I've had a few big fights, fought great opponents, but we haven't made big noises yet. This fight against Barker, he's a bloke who talks it up a bit, so I can't help but think they're going to definitely know about me after this one."

The 32-year-old native of Tasmania, the island state (or province) that's wedged between the Australian mainland and New Zealand and blasted by frigid winds from Antarctica, has worked hard for his stripes. He might not be well known in America, but Geale's willingness to roll with the punches, to accept his setbacks without complaint and his successes with gratitude has endeared him to every-day Aussies.

"I don't think about that," he said of his being ranked among boxing's nice guys. "I get a lot of feedback from parents who've seen a bit of boxing – and even those who haven't – and they say they've had long held stereotypical views of fighters. However, they tell me I'm doing a great job of being a role model to their children. My view has long been if I can help keep kids on track – even if at the end of it all it's just one child – I'll be happy."

The Barker fight is yet another step in Geale's quest to dominate the middleweight division. He's drawn up a hit list, headed by RING and WBC

GENTLEMAN FROM DOWN UNDER

champion Sergio Martinez, but his immediate focus is the Englishman who'll enter the ring in August with a height and reach advantage.

"I've had a lot of opponents in the past who've had that advantage, it's nothing new to me," he said. "Barker is a good boxer-thinker in the ring and that always poses a good challenge. He put in a good performance against Martinez last year, but he just couldn't finish it off. (Barker was KO'd in the 11th round.) He'll have confidence. … In his mind he'll think he did well. I imagine he probably sees this fight as a good opportunity to win a title and to step it up.

"I like for my opponents to go into the ring feeling confident because when the fight starts they soon find it's very different to what they expected. I've gone into a lot of fights overlooked and as the underdog even though I'm the champion. It's a position I like; my opponent being a little bit cocky and expecting to win. I'm a boxer but I do adapt and do whatever I need to do. I can punch, I can get in close and tough it out, I can move and box and jab."

And, as it was alluded to earlier, the Real Deal knows how to inspire.

Eight years ago Geale volunteered to help mentor the troupe of young amateur boxers who train at his gym on the outskirts of Sydney, and part of that responsibility means that, even as the reigning world champ, he often drives their team bus to tournaments around the state and talks to the team about how to conquer such things as stomach-churning nerves.

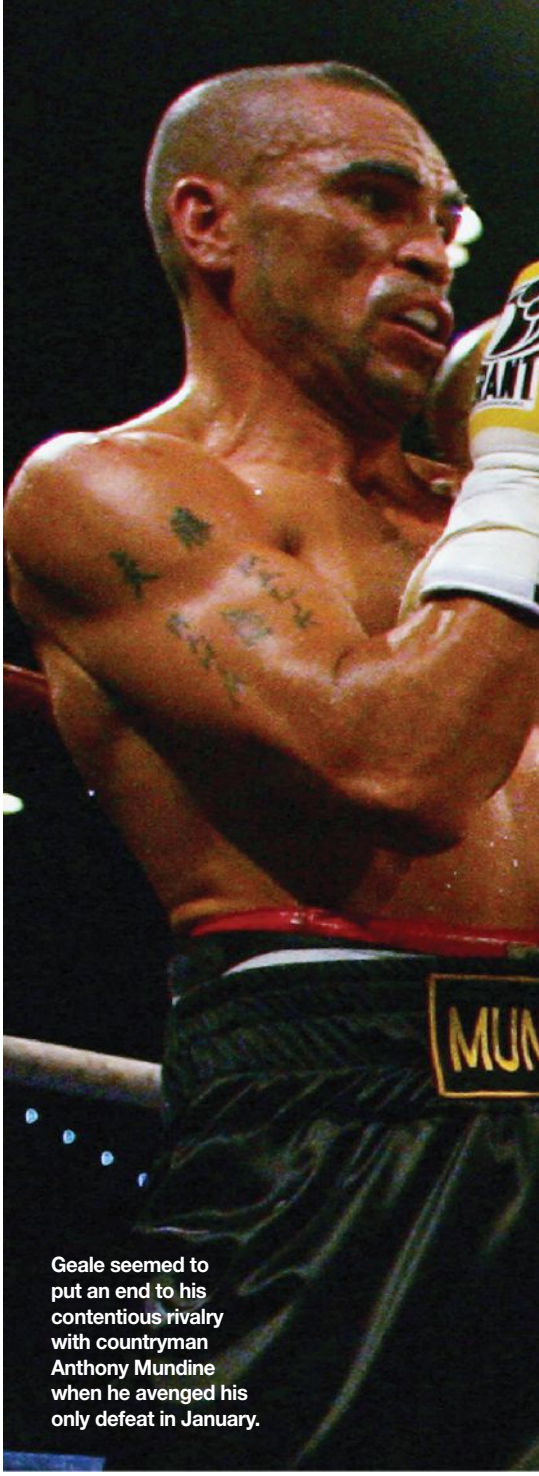
"The kids understand when a fight gets closer it gets busy for me and I have to focus on the job, but after the fight I get around with them," he said with a grin. "It's a motivation for me to help these kids, to pass on my experiences and they enjoy it. I'll sometimes jump in the ring and do a round or two with them and that keeps them honest. On sparring days it makes me smile when they check to see if I've brought … my (gloves and gear) with me when I walk into the gym. If I don't, well, they breathe a sigh of relief ... you can hear them ... yeah, little things like that makes me smile."

He's also gone to extremes to prove to the young fighters who look up to him, and his own three children, that there's a sacredness in sportsmanship.

Last January he was praised for an extraordinary display of chivalry when he fought Anthony Mundine, another Aussie who had faced the likes of Danny Green, Mikkel Kessler, Antwun Echols and Sven Ottke. The bout was their long-awaited rematch after Mundine won what was described as a "contentious" split decision in 2009 (There were allegations that a member of Mundine's team had intimidated a judge during the bout, and that he'd received excessive recovery time due to repeatedly loose gloves). The build-up to their second fight, with Geale's IBF belt on the line, was bitter as a result of Mundine's trash-talking.

Mundine and Geale are both descended from the original inhabitants of Australia. Still, Mundine said during a pre-bout rant that the champion's children and his wife Sheena (whose father is also an Aborigine) were "white" and that Geale didn't deserve to fly the Aboriginal flag because he hadn't proclaimed his ancestry publicly or loudly enough. Mundine is an activist for indigenous people and their rights.

The venomous nature of Mundine's comments made headlines and was featured in news bulletins around the nation. Even after Mundine offered an apology Geale's family was left seething; his 78-year-old grandmother was said to have wanted to commence litigation but then decided she'd prefer to fight Mundine.



Geale seemed to put an end to his contentious rivalry with countryman Anthony Mundine when he avenged his only defeat in January.

Bradley Kanaris/Getty Images

The reason the slur struck a raw nerve was because through his mother's family Geale belongs to the Palawa people, a tribe whose full-blooded members were driven to extinction by the disease and violence introduced by British settlers in the 18th century. While Mundine was widely condemned, the champion remained composed. His only comment on the matter came at the weigh-in when he warned Mundine the talk was over and the war was about to begin. Geale dominated the bout yet, despite his anger and sense of outrage at the insult, he still offered an outstretched glove at the beginning of the 12th and final round as a sign of respect for a fellow boxer – all the time knowing it'd most likely be rejected.

And, it was.

"I expected it," he said of the snub. "I do what's right. I do a lot of work with young amateurs around our gym and I wanted to show them sportsmanship. I didn't care what he might or mightn't do. I was going to show sportsmanship. I was going to show my young fighters that whether you're in the ring with an idiot or not you show them respect.

"However, if they don't show you respect after that, well, you don't need to continue to show it

Geale's split decision over Felix Sturm (left) in Sturm's home country last year was his breakthrough victory.

Joern Pollex/Bongarts/Getty Images

to them. … I just want to teach my young guys the right way to do it."

Geale said the reason Mundine's pre-fight words failed to consume him was because he's fully aware of who he is.

"It's not going to bother me," he replied when asked whether the jibes still hurt months later. "I didn't expect a phone call after the fight from Anthony apologizing or anything like that. He has his opinion and whatever he says is his own opinion. And if that's the way he wants to carry on, that's fine with me. He tried to insult me, to get inside my head and put me off my game. I saw that. It was plain for everybody to see. I went about my business, and while I don't think we'll ever be best mates, it's not as though I'm going to hate the guy."

The champion won further kudos the morning after his triumph over Mundine when rather than dance the night away he went home, set his alarm clock and woke early to walk by his youngest daughter Lily's side as she attended her first day of school. At the end of the day he was there again, battle scars and all, to escort his kids home.

"When my wife asked what I wanted to do after the fight it was a pretty simple decision, really," he said. "I was there for my other two kids, Bailey and Ariyelle's, first day of school and I wasn't going to miss Lily's. No matter how the fight went I was going to be there, and it was great."

The loss to Mundine in Brisbane four years ago is the only stain on his 30-fight record. Even back then, rather than join the chorus of post-match howls and protests at what was dismissed as the wrong decision, Geale followed the lead of boxing's old-school warriors when he shrugged his shoulders, congratulated Mundine and worked hard to position himself for other title shots. When he received those opportunities, they were in unfriendly territory. He fought Sebastian Sylvester for his IBF belt in 2011 and, after defending it twice, defeated Felix Sturm by a split verdict to unify the IBF and World Boxing Association titles in September last year. Both the Sylvester and Sturm bouts were staged in Germany, regarded by many critics as the toughest nation on the planet for a foreigner to win a decision. While he was constantly reminded of that in the lead-up to both campaigns, Geale never used the notion that the odds were stacked against him as a pre-emptive excuse for a possible loss when he boarded the plane.

"Everyone held their breath for those ones because they knew how hard it is to win in Germany," he said. "Coming away with one win was pretty cool, but to return home successfully from a second fight, and where I unified the belt, was what made my mark.

"I felt that a lot of people thought I was going over there for a couple of losses, that it was a waste of time because so many others had failed in Germany. But we were confident and we knew what we had to do. … I needed to step my preparation up another notch."

When he fought Sturm, the Aussie was described as pound-for-pound the sport's most honest man when he alerted the German boxing commissioner and his opponent's management to the fact they'd mistakenly approved him to don eight-ounce gloves rather than the agreed upon 10's that Sturm was using. It was a clear-cut advantage but Geale explained his sense of right and wrong wouldn't allow him to capitalize on the oversight.

"I didn't see it as being fair," he said. ''When we were taping my gloves I saw the '8' on them and my immediate thought was it wouldn't be right (to use them). If I had have knocked Felix out, I would've known what really happened and I don't think I could've lived with that (come) the day my kids asked me about the fight."

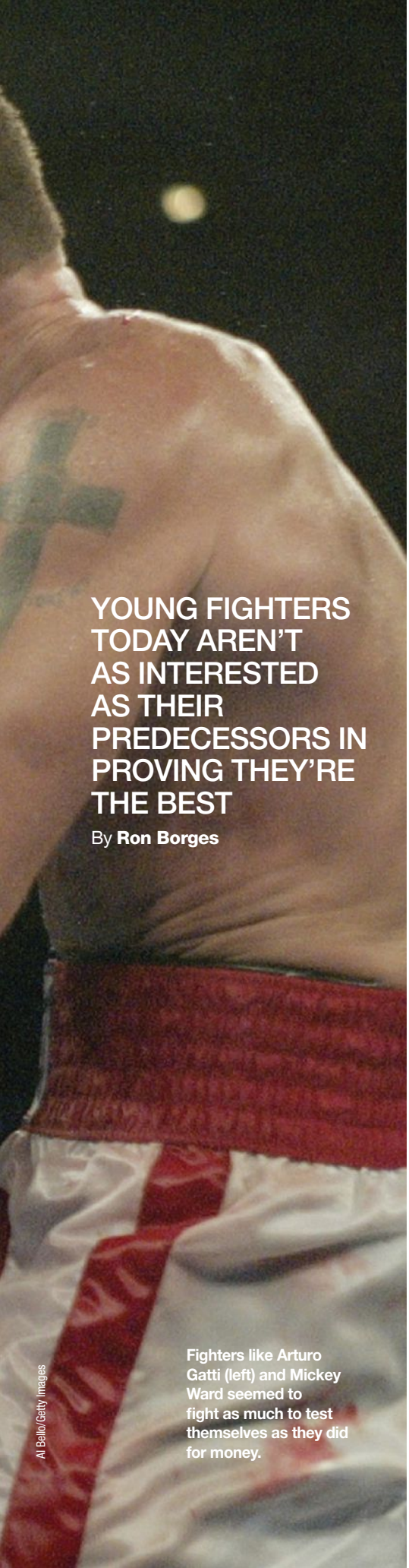
His reign as the WBA's middleweight king lasted two months. The sanctioning body stripped him of the belt last November when he chose to fight Mundine in their lucrative rematch rather than the heavy-handed mandatory challenger, Gennady Golovkin of Kazakhstan.

Geale was angered by what he described as an "unfair" decision, but he quickly learned to live with it. Should all go well in August, he might even get his chance to wrench it from Golovkin's waist."

"I guess it is tricky with unifications, it's hard to keep both organizations happy," he said. "Win more than two (titles) and I'd imagine it would be even harder because you can only do what you can do, have a certain amount of fights in a year. I just want the opportunity to fight for more titles. If the chance comes to fight for a WBA title, I will. Them stripping me of that title … I don't have any bad feelings about that. I knew it was going to be difficult. It could have been handled in a different way but I understand that's the way they go about things."

Daniel Geale might not talk himself up or his opponents down, but his actions in and out of the boxing ring are a throwback to the rare times of noble gentlemen and giants. America, it's hoped, should find something to admire in August.

WHAT HAPPENED TO PRIDE?



Al Bello/Getty Images

Fighters like Arturo Gatti (left) and Mickey Ward seemed to fight as much to test themselves as they did for money.

YOUNG FIGHTERS TODAY AREN'T AS INTERESTED AS THEIR PREDECESSORS IN PROVING THEY'RE THE BEST

By **Ron Borges**

Every sport is about competition but none is a more shared individual test of will and skill between two athletes than prize fighting. It is the essence of the sport, the core reason why so many find boxing the most compelling of athletic competitions.

It is why Micky Ward has so often said he knew Arturo Gatti better than Gatti's own mother knew him after their trilogy became one of the greatest and most revered rivalries in boxing history, ranking with Ali-Frazier, Zale-Graziano, Barrera-Morales and Bowe-Holyfield for its intensity and passion. Ward knew they had shared something no one else could know or understand.

Boxing is a sport where one fighter willingly takes the measure of the other for money but for something more important as well, because if one fights solely for the prize, there is a problem best described to me once by George Foreman.

Foreman had just finished saying you couldn't fight solely for the money, after which someone asked what other reason could there be?

Ever the wise sage, Foreman smiled the understanding smile of someone who understood what only other fighters could know and said, "You fight for pride and to find out where you stand because the minute they ring the first bell you got the money.

"If that's all there is, what keeps you fighting when it gets difficult … and it always gets difficult?"

As often is the case with Foreman, it was an analysis brilliant in its simplicity. Prize fighters fight for money, but they usually come to the sport from desperate circumstances, arriving at a dank gym somewhere because, as Johnny Tapia hauntingly says in the new documentary about his tragic life, "I wanted to be somebody."

That is why fighters have squared off for centuries. It is why for most of the sport's history, great boxers have sought out equally great opponents. They wanted to test themselves. They wanted to know in the only way you can find out who is the better man.

In fiction it was why Rocky Balboa and Apollo Creed had to go at each other in the basement with no one else around. Not for money. Just to *know*.

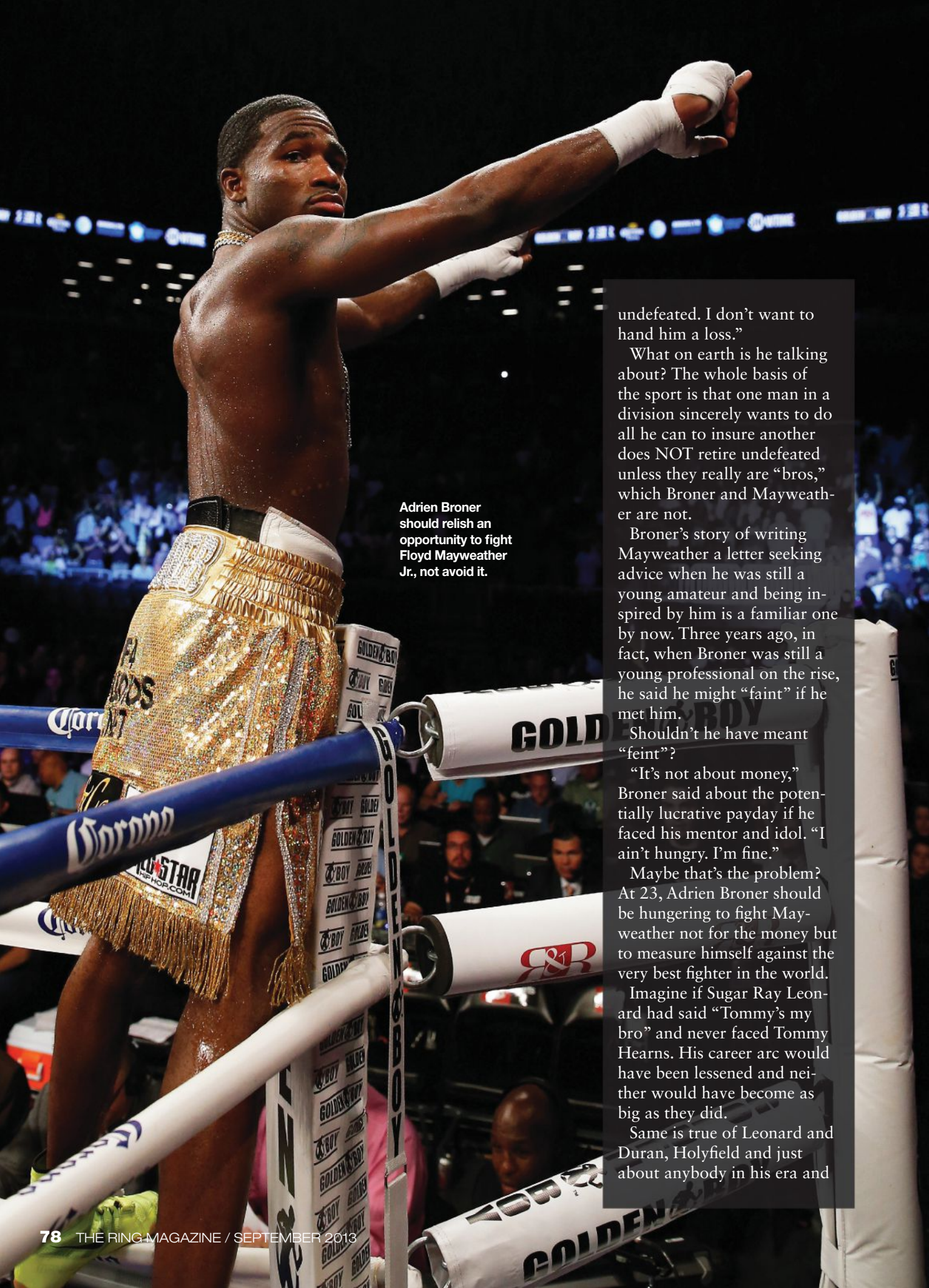
After Jake LaMotta gave Sugar Ray Robinson the first loss of his career, Robinson faced him again three weeks later and won. LaMotta would fight Robinson four more times to try to prove his superiority. He could not do so but he refused to stop trying and would have done it again.

All of that is what made the recent remarks of Adrien Broner so difficult to accept coming from one of the rising stars in the sport. Four days before Broner was to challenge WBA welterweight champion Paulie Malignaggi at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, he was at Gleason's Gym for a media session. He was asked if he hoped one day to face the sport's biggest name, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

His response was shocking but sadly all too typical of the mindset of many fighters today, many of whom seem more interested in avoidance than confrontation.

Broner said that regardless of whether or not he became a welterweight champion he had no interest or intention of ever challenging Mayweather because they were "bros."

"My big brother got his legacy, I got mine," Broner said that day without any understanding that in boxing one star often enhances his legacy by diminishing that of another. "I want to see him retire



Adrien Broner should relish an opportunity to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr., not avoid it.

undefeated. I don't want to hand him a loss."

What on earth is he talking about? The whole basis of the sport is that one man in a division sincerely wants to do all he can to insure another does NOT retire undefeated unless they really are "bros," which Broner and Mayweather are not.

Broner's story of writing Mayweather a letter seeking advice when he was still a young amateur and being inspired by him is a familiar one by now. Three years ago, in fact, when Broner was still a young professional on the rise, he said he might "faint" if he met him.

Shouldn't he have meant "feint"?

"It's not about money," Broner said about the potentially lucrative payday if he faced his mentor and idol. "I ain't hungry. I'm fine."

Maybe that's the problem? At 23, Adrien Broner should be hungering to fight Mayweather not for the money but to measure himself against the very best fighter in the world.

Imagine if Sugar Ray Leonard had said "Tommy's my bro" and never faced Tommy Hearns. His career arc would have been lessened and neither would have become as big as they did.

Same is true of Leonard and Duran, Holyfield and just about anybody in his era and

on and on through time. The Big Fight is what fighters have pursued since the dawn of time.

You wonder whether Broner feels this way out of loyalty to Mayweather, whom he seems to look at more like a mentor than a peer, or because he wants maintain his perfect record and figures he's more likely to do that if he waits out Mayweather's retirement rather than step up and challenge the sport's pound-for-pound king.

Problems among promoters have often prevented big fights from happening. These days the same is true because of the battles between HBO and Showtime, the former refusing to televise Golden Boy fighters and the latter seeming unsure any other fighters exist.

But it is a fairly recent phenomenon where fighters began avoiding the biggest tests for reasons often unfathomable.

In the heavyweight division's cloudy picture today the only fight anyone truly wants to see is one between Wladimir Klitschko and Vitali Klitschko, who between them hold all the title belts. That will never happen, of course. They promised their mother they would never face each other in a professional prize fight, which is completely understandable because they really are "bros," not just pals.

More and more, boxing seems to be becoming a place where the best not only do not to fight the best, they have no interest in facing such a harsh test. It is why we'll probably never see Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao.

That fight didn't happen because neither fighter was willing to do what Holyfield did to fight Mike Tyson, which was travel to Toronto and sign a deal for $4 million less than his advisors thought he deserved because he wanted the chance to face the division's biggest challenge and felt he could live up to it.

That's how most fighters have felt until recent years, when it seems it has become harder than ever to make the biggest fights. There are many business reasons for this but the fact of the matter is the fight can ALWAYS be made if the fighters themselves insist it be done.

When a young guy like Broner starts suggesting that such a fight not be done, you begin to wonder about him. If the people in suits around you don't want the biggest fight in boxing for you, fine. It's their job to protect you. But if you don't want it, that's not so fine.

Broner keeps telling anyone who will listen that he is the sport's future, its new driving force. He called himself for some time "Mr. HBO" until HBO let him go to Showtime because he's promoted by Golden Boy.

Perhaps Broner feels that way, but the only way to truly become the man in boxing is to beat the man, and until further notice, Floyd Mayweather Jr. is that man.

"Champion" is not a title you can inherit or have handed down to you by the previous king, as if there was a recognized line of succession. That's not how it works.

In boxing you become the man by beating the man and frankly sometimes even that is not enough. Lennox Lewis understood that, which is why he so desperately wanted to face Holyfield and Tyson after business problems prevented he and Riddick Bowe from facing each other even though that was a logical extension of their career paths.

Lewis always regretted that because he understood that while boxing is a business, it's the hurt business. It's an arena where the new king is crowned only at the expense of the old.

For a 23-year-old kid who already is on some pound-for-pound lists not to want to face the biggest name in the sport, friend or no friend, simply makes you wonder once again, as I find myself doing more and more in the past few years, whether today's fighters really want to know anymore who the best man really is, especially if they're not totally convinced it's them.

A Mayweather-Broner fight has been discussed among fight fans for several years, but now that Broner has left the lightweight division to campaign among the welterweights it is a far more significant argument.

He now resides in the same division as the 37-year-old pound-for-pound best, and the boxing world wants to know who is superior. Fans want to know, and television executives want to sell pay-per-view to find out. Adrien Broner should want to know too if he is who he says he is.

To this point Mayweather has fought far better competition and never been found wanting. At a comparable stage of their careers the same was true, Mayweather by far fought better opposition than Broner has faced.

While some accuse Mayweather of having avoided Pacquiao, they were mutually responsible for that fight not happening. And the fact is Mayweather never avoided anyone else of note, certainly not at the age of 23.

At that age he was already screaming the name of Oscar De La Hoya from every pulpit he could find. Broner, on the other hand, is already declaring who he won't fight and it's the biggest name not only in his division but in the sport?

It makes you wonder about Adrien Broner, and more and more about too many of his peers who seem too often to be following the same path of accommodation rather than confrontation. RING

Nick Laham/Getty Images

PACQUIAO IS LATE TO JOIN THE WAR AGAINST PEDS

HE COULD'VE SAVED THE FIGHT AGAINST MAYWEATHER HAD HE COME AROUND EARLIER

By **Tim Smith**

Manny Pacquiao has seen the light. He has come around to the thinking of Floyd Mayweather Jr. about the efficacy of drug testing in boxing. Too bad it didn't happen back in 2009. If it had, Pacquiao would have cleared the way for the biggest boxing match ever and perhaps altered the course of history in the sport.

Pacquiao and Brandon Rios have agreed to undergo testing for performance enhancing drugs administered by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA) for their junior welterweight match in Macau, China, on Nov. 23.

Two alarm bells evidently went off in Pacquiao's head prompting him to agree to the drug testing. The first came shortly after he got up off the canvas following his sixth-round KO loss to Juan Manuel Marquez, who looked like a mini-Adonis leading up to the match. The second was that Rios had been using Angel Heredia Hernandez, the same strength and conditioning coach that Marquez employed in training for his match against Pacquiao.

Hernandez has a checkered past when it comes to athletes and PEDs. He supplied PEDs to Trevor Graham, the coach for former track athletes Tim Montgomery and Marion Jones, who were convicted of using illegal substances. Hernandez was not charged with a crime. He testified for the U.S. government against Montgomery and Jones.

It seems the same suspicions that drove Mayweather to insist on having his opponents tested for PEDs are also driving Pacquiao.

"It's really important because, you never know, some fighters use drugs," Pacquiao said in an interview with Ryan Songalia of

Landry Major/Getty Images

Manny Pacquiao has finally decided that it would be prudent to fully embrace PED testing.

Manny Pacquiao and Brandon Rios will be tested by the strict Voluntary Anti-Doping Association for their Nov. 23 fight.

RingTV.com in May. "It's really important to have drug testing."

Why in the world couldn't he have come to that conclusion in 2009 or 2010 when it was the hot-button issue in his fight with Mayweather? Agreeing to undergo pre-fight drug testing would have saved the fight. That was when all the money splits had been agreed to and the only thing missing was an agreement on drug testing. Eventually, Pacquiao did agree to undergo drug testing. But by the time he did, all kinds of other issues had emerged to scuttle the fight.

When Mayweather fought Oscar De La Hoya there was a theme in the mainstream media that it was the fight to save boxing. That was hyperbole. But Mayweather-Pacquiao was indeed the fight to save boxing. It caught fire like no other sporting event at the time. It was front page news, but for all the wrong reasons. When the fight couldn't be made it became another blight on the sport.

Instead of build-up to the fight there were charges and counter charges thrown back and forth, lawsuits over slander and defamation. And it all could have been prevented if Pacquiao had reached his moment of enlightenment about drug testing before he became a KO victim and his own suspicions bubbled to the surface.

Bob Arum of Top Rank Promotions, Pacquiao's promoter, is also a convert to the idea of pre-fight PED testing. This will be the third major boxing event that he has promoted where VADA testing has been in place. He did it for Timothy Bradley-Ruslan Provodnikov and Nonito Donaire-Guillermo Rigondeaux. Arum didn't want to talk about Pacquiao being involved in testing. Through a spokesman he declined comment.

Before Donaire-Rigondeaux, a dispute arose over whether to use the United States Anti-Doping Association (USADA) or VADA. Arum explained then why he liked VADA over USADA.

"The VADA testing is first class, and it's something we all should recognize," Arum said. "In the future on these title fights, we're going to urge the main event fighters to submit to drug testing through VADA, which Top Rank the promoter will pay for, because I think it's important.

"It's really important because, you never know, some fighters use drugs."
— Manny Pacquiao

"The VADA tests will be furnished to the commission, which is appropriate because they have regulatory authority. Through the efforts of fighters like Nonito and Guillermo, we can make great steps to clean up the sport."

Arum has always insisted that the results from the test should be forwarded to the various commissions in charge of regulating the match and that it should have the final say on whether a negative result would result in the cancellation of the bout.

That point was made clear when Danny Garcia and Erik Morales, who were undergoing USADA testing before their junior welterweight title match at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., last October. They signed a contract through Golden Boy Promotions, their promoter, that stipulated any adjudication process must go through USADA. Morales tested positive for clenbuterol on Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 – the week before the match. The New York State Athletic Commission was informed of the positive tests a couple days before the bout, while the USADA legal process was still ongoing. The NYSAC allowed the match to take place anyway. Morales was KO'd in the fight and subsequently USADA banned him from boxing for two years.

VADA has not had those kinds of hiccups with its testing. Lamont Peterson, who had agreed to VADA testing, had his rematch against Amir Khan in Las Vegas last May canceled after testing positive for synthetic testosterone. A month later Andre Berto had his rematch against Victor Ortiz canceled after he tested positive for nandrolone under the VADA protocol.

Unlike other sports, such as cycling, running, swimming and baseball, boxing is unique in that the participants are expressly using their fists to render their opponents unconscious. The use of PEDs, where strength and endurance are enhanced beyond normal, would greatly increase a boxer's chances of doing more damage than usual.

Mayweather recognized that in 2009. Now Pacquiao has seen the light – but just a little too late. If only he had taken that position in 2009, not only would the sport be much cleaner, its outlook would have been healthier as well.

Landry Major/Getty Images

ONE

MORE MISSION

CARL FROCH HAS THE ADMIRATION OF HIS COUNTRYMEN BUT MUST AVENGE ANOTHER LOSS – AGAINST ANDRE WARD – TO REACH REVERED STATUS

By **Gareth A Davies**

Carl Froch's victory over Mikkel Kessler in their rematch underscored his position as standard bearer of British boxing.

Scott Heavey/Getty Images

The widespread recognition of super middleweight Carl Froch in the U.K. was long overdue. It came in droves in May before, during and after his redemption contest with decorated Dane Mikkel Kessler.

Late in June, Froch was "deeply honored" when he addressed fans from the balcony of the Council House in the Old Market Square in his historic home city of Nottingham. The civic reception was akin to giving the 168-pound (12st) pugilist keys to the city.

The accomplishments of the three-time world champion, who has had 10 title fights in succession, were capped by avenging defeat over Kessler in a much-publicized fight of the year contender to widespread acclaim. It marked him out as the standard bearer for British boxing.

The rematch with Kessler, a four-time world titleholder, was the highest-profile contest of his

33-fight career. He rose to the occasion from the second he signed on the dotted line.

Sky Box Office had put its full weight behind Froch, creating behind the scenes documentaries about him. It cleared the air, dispelling myths about his arrogance, showing a proud man with that hooked Roman nose of his, dedicated to his craft, his young family and his origins.

He had appeared as a guest on Chat Shows on national television. It was all new, and he took to it all in his stride. And why shouldn't he? The stripes he had earned to get there had been battled for over and over again.

Yet question marks still burn brightly. Could the Nottingham hero defeat Andre Ward in a second meeting? Will a second meeting ever take place? And are his claims to being among the best British boxers – alongside the likes of Naseem Hamed, Ricky Hatton, Joe Calzaghe and Lennox Lewis – fully justified?

When Froch triumphed in a thrilling battle against his nemesis Kessler, redemption was complete. But the journey remains incomplete.

In spite of the brilliant match of their styles, how meaningful would a third fight with Kessler be given that it does not even decide the best super middleweight in the world, a mantle still held by the Californian Ward?

Nonetheless, what remains undeniable over the last 4½ years is that, given the level of opposition Froch has faced and his success, he has been a colossus in his division.

He has delivered excitement and value for fans at every turn. The run at world level started with a toe-to-toe gladiatorial points victory over Jean Pascal in December 2008 in Nottingham, witnessed by 5 million viewers on terrestrial U.K. channel ITV. But soon afterward the television deal with ITV, and his then promoter Mick Hennessy, was lost.

That victory, his relentlessness, power and granite chin earned Froch the vacant World Boxing Council super middleweight title. Pascal, from Canada, went on to become the world's No. 1 light heavyweight for a time. Though Pascal's style suited Froch, it put the victory in perspective.

In his first WBC defense, Froch went to the United States and knocked out Jermaine Taylor – once the undisputed middleweight champion – in a thrilling last round after being behind on points. He successfully defended it again against rising U.S. star Andre Dirrell on a tricky night back in Nottingham.

"I have wanted to win before, but, I don't know what it is, but there is something about this guy that winds me up. It is anger, and I have got to channel it."
— Carl Froch

Yet Froch's career is indicative of boxing's upside-down relationship with the wider sporting world. Feted in Nottingham for years, he was unrecognizable, for example, in London. He was arguably better known in Germany, Denmark and the United States.

Shorn of a mainstream television deal, his contest with Arthur Abraham, destined to be a barnburner, was shown on Primetime, a pay-per-view channel in the U.K. The performance was one of the most impressive of his career but the audience was paltry. Call him unlucky. But timing has been an enemy as damaging to Froch as Kessler and Ward, the only two opponents to have bettered him.

The mental strength demonstrated by Froch time and again brought to mind the words of the late Manny Steward, expressed to me one day ringside at a Wladimir Klitschko training camp in the Austrian Alps.

Like many of Manny's utterances, it seems prophetic now: "People used to say to me the kid has plenty of self-belief but he's not very good. But they were wrong. When I saw him knock out Jermain Taylor, I was so impressed. … Champions are made inside, and Froch is a tough guy inside. That's the one thing all the best guys who I have worked with – they are mentally tough, arrogant, confident. That's as important, if not more important, than the boxing skills."

Steward likened Froch to Dennis Andries, who won the WBC light heavyweight title three times in the 1980s and early '90s. In 65 fights, Andries never knew he was beaten.

"Like Dennis, it would always be dangerous to underestimate his talent," Steward said. "Froch doesn't know how limited he is. But he's a real tough man, and he's starting to polish his skills now. In the beginning, I never thought he would do anything."

We were talking prior to Froch facing Ward for the first time.

Scott Heavey/Getty Images

Froch was more assertive in his rematch with Mikkel Kessler than he was in their first meeting, which he lost by decision.

Froch doesn't need intimidating costumes to be seen as a true warrior.

THE GAUNTLET

No fighter in the world has faced a string of elite opponents more impressive than that of Froch the past few years. Here's a look (in chronological order):

Jean Pascal, W UD 12 (2008): Won his first major title.

Jermain Taylor, W KO 12 (2009): Was behind on two of three cards.

Andre Dirrell, W SD 12 (2009): Controversial decision.

Mikkel Kessler, L UD 12 (2010): Wasn't active enough to win. Lost title.

Arthur Abraham, W UD 12 (2010): Near shutout to regain title.

Glen Johnson, W MD 12 (2011): Majority decision? Was a clear victory.

Andre Ward, L UD 12 (2011): Was outclassed.

Lucian Bute, W TKO 5 (2012): His greatest performance?

Yusaf Mack, W KO 3 (2012): The one second-tier foe on the list.

Mikkel Kessler, W UD 12 (2013): Gets his revenge.

"Froch is mentally stronger than Ward, and should go out there and hurt Ward."

No doubt Manny, whom we all miss, would be advocating the same if Froch-Ward II is destined to happen. He truly believed that Froch has what it takes to beat Ward.

Backing up the theories of the late, great trainer Steward, Froch delivered a couple of revelations in the week before the Kessler fight. One, that he had refused to miss a 14-round sparring session in Sheffield – 50 miles from his native Nottingham – in spite of his partner, Rachael Cordingley, going into labor with their second child (he eventually made it back with a little time to spare to see his daughter Natalia born) four weeks before the fight. That's how much it mattered to him. Life and death.

Secondly, 72 hours from meeting Kessler in the ring, he said he was "prepared to kill" his rival for victory. I was there in a huddle in that moment, with half a dozen other national newspaper boxing writers.

It was uncharacteristic of Froch to say such a thing. He is an intelligent man, has a Bachelor's degree in Sports Science, and he knew he was crossing the boundary into dark territory. In hindsight, he will have wished he had never said it, but it was a moment in which a fighter hell-bent on revenge displayed the inner workings of his mind.

The pair of fighters have long been viewed as good friends and Froch considers himself a gentleman pugilist, but as he leaned in, he admitted: "I shouldn't really say this, but … on Saturday night, if I have to, I will kill this f-----. I will kill him. It sounds brutal, it sounds horrible, but that is what this means to me. I am going to leave it in the ring."

Froch had suddenly turned bitter and aggressive. "I am going to leave it in the ring. And when I am smashing his face in, I am going to go for the kill. I am going to go for the finish. I want to do him some damage. I want to put the record straight. That's how I feel inside."

It was a moment of redemption he had dreamed of since losing to Kessler three-plus years ago in Denmark, forced to fly there on a private jet due to the volcanic ash cloud hovering over Europe with most airlines grounded.

"I have never really felt like this before," he said. "I have wanted to win before, but, I don't know what it is, but there is something about this guy that winds me up. It is anger, and I have got to channel it. I am in there not just to win this fight but to put him out of the game. I don't want to see him anymore. I am sick of him, I am sick of the fact that he has beaten me and I want to put the record straight, and if that means I have to do him some serious damage, then I will do."

"He had better be f------ ready. I am sorry for swearing but that's how much this means to me."

He had rubbed the palms of his hands over his forearms. He had goose bumps. The hairs were standing up on his arms. What he then delivered was a speech rousing himself toward the fight.

It was a moment in time. We stood, silently. He went from eye to eye, spelling out his wish. It was a sign of tension, adrenaline and the burning desire to fulfill an ambition.

When they weighed in two days later, Froch having apologized on Twitter for the outburst, there were no histrionics. No threats to "kill" his opponent.

Then there were more revelations from the fighter and his trainer Rob McCracken.

Eleven years earlier, Froch had considered quitting the sport after a decent amateur career, lacking the self-confidence to join the professional ranks.

It was McCracken who had persuaded him to fight on. But for a conversation on a long motorway drive one day, Froch may have been lost to the sport. Incredible, now, with hindsight.

"I'd have gone into building," said Froch, who has wisely invested his earnings – this purse reportedly around £2.5 million ($4 million), the biggest of his career – in properties, which he rents out.

"Rob's tidied me up, he's given me a defense," Froch said. "He's taught me how to box, he's taught me how to use my jab. He's kept my head straight, he's not only my coach but he has trained me psychologically, he's trained me mentally. … He's turned my personality round from somebody who's not quite confident enough, and sure of themselves, even to this day sometimes."

"I've got demons. Everyone's got demons. I speak to Rob and he gives me confidence and without that, without the teamwork, I wouldn't be the world champion I am today."

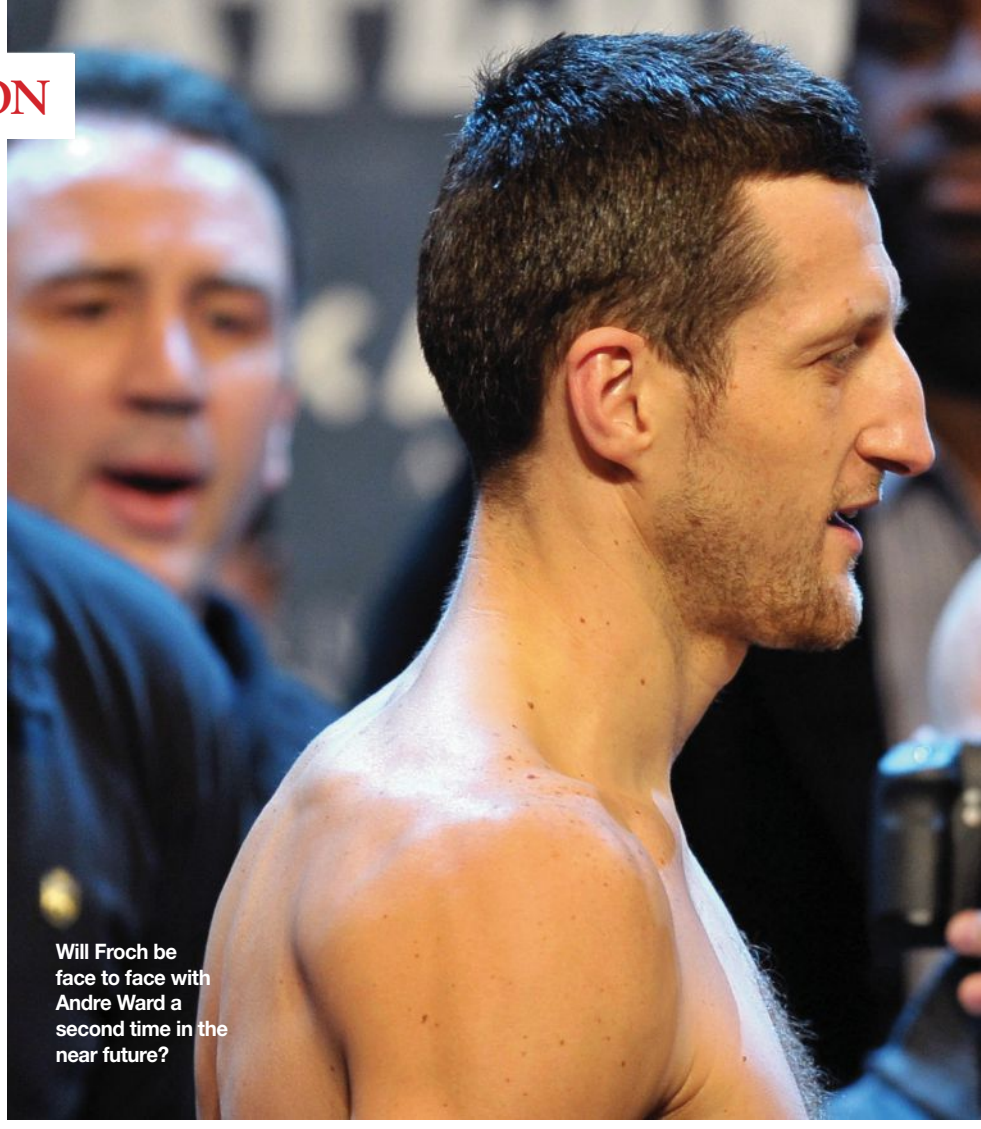
Praise indeed for McCracken, and underpinning the importance of a great trainer.

So … to the fight itself. The protagonists had weighed in at the O_2 Arena in London's Docklands, an iconic venue constructed like a huge marquee tent, lit beautifully in the East London evening, one of the afterglow buildings made famous at last year's Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In an atmosphere reminiscent of Joe Calzaghe and Ricky Hatton in their pomp, a large, partisan crowd had gathered. Calzaghe, who defeated Kessler on a memorable night in Cardiff in

Getty Images

ONE MORE MISSION



Will Froch be face to face with Andre Ward a second time in the near future?

2007 and walked away from the sport undefeated after 46 fights, weighed in with his view that it was "a fight to savor."

He was not wrong. The fight night was long, and memorable. Ward, suited and booted, was just feet away on the ring apron, commentating for U.S. television.

Five thousand travelling supporters from Denmark, where Kessler is a national hero, descended on the O_2 Arena. The fight was an 18,000 sellout, the protagonists sharing a reported £5million ($8 million) purse.

Froch, raised as the standard bearer for British boxing in pre-fight hype, now had to deliver. He'd promised to do so. Kessler had been perfectly prepared under the tutelage of veteran Jimmy Montoya, who was involved in the careers of Hector Camacho, Salvador Sanchez and Alexis Arguello.

Kessler, the bigger puncher with the faster hand speed, would favor his left hook-right hand combinations. He said he would not take a backward step. Froch, hell-bent on forcing a war, would leave himself open and rely on his granite chin to survive while throwing punches in bunches and unleashing his powerful right hand and low-slung jab.

It was a defining moment in Froch's career, glitz and glamor ringside in London after nights of paltry crowds in the U.K., on the road in America, plying his trade abroad but lacking adoration and respect at home.

In the plush seats at the O_2 Arena, there were stars from showbiz and sport – including England's most renowned soccer player, Wayne Rooney.

Froch won the opening rounds with his jab, starting faster, controlling the distance, displaying the precision of his boxing – and aggression – in the first quarter of the contest. Then it was Kessler's turn for the next three rounds as he came out on the offensive, impressively finding his rhythm and timing. He outboxed Froch from Rounds 4 to 6, buckling the Briton's legs to his boots with a heavy right hand in the fifth and then in the sixth, the most significant strikes a powerful left-right combination.

By Round 7, they were in the trenches, testing each others' chins. Froch had Kessler where he wanted him, and in the eighth, forced home the advantage.

The final three rounds drew every last ounce of effort from the two champions. In the 11th round they fought as if their lives, not merely their careers, depended on it. In the final round, as the roof was lifted off the O_2 Arena, they fought to a standstill. It was a night of boxing which will live long in the memory.

Over 12 coruscating rounds, with Froch almost stopping his opponent in the last, the Nottingham fighter successfully defended his International Boxing Federation crown with a unanimous points decision: 118-110, 116-112, 115-113. The first judge's score was easily the most inaccurate.

Post-fight, Froch bathed in the afterglow of success. He got in a dig at Ward when he was asked about a third fight with Kessler: "I think stylistically we make for an entertaining fight but I think I dominated him from behind the jab from early on, and I'm not sure if he'd like to do that again to be honest. At this stage in my career, who I fight next is going to be defining. The only other guy

Drew Hallowell/Getty Images

to beat me now is Andre Ward, he's No. 2 pound for pound in the world. He's a fantastic fighter in the sense of he knows how to win. It's very difficult to beat, but I think that if me and Rob get the game plan right, get him over to the U.K., I could beat him. And what an unbelievable win that would be for me."

Froch had made his point to Ward after the fight. "I had a little chat with him but I think I upset him when I said that stylistically he's not the most exciting fighter, and nobody's really getting excited, and I think that got his back up. I said, 'You know, I don't mean any disrespect, I'm just being honest. I'm not talking personalities, I'm talking boxing. And your style would put a glass eye to sleep.'" It drew laughter from the gallery.

But Froch clearly wants to face Ward.

"He's tricky and he knows how to win a fight, he's unbeaten since he was 12 years old, he's an Olympic gold medalist, unbeaten as a pro. But he's not that exciting. But I think next time we fight, if it happens in the U.K., it'd be one of the most exciting fights that we've ever seen because I know what to do. If I stamp my authority early on against Andre Ward, I feel I can really make him work late on. To rematch him and would just be unbelievable. Something that dreams are made of."

Eddie Hearn, Froch's promoter, wants the contest to happen, and insisted he is going out on a limb to make it happen. "Andre Ward's got absolutely nowhere to go," he said. "What options has Andre Ward got at super middleweight outside of Carl Froch? Tell me another fight for Andre Ward at super middleweight. He was at the fight because he wants to fight with Carl Froch. It's a massive fight. We're sitting here with two belts. Froch has just catapulted himself to huge new levels in terms of sporting prestige in Great Britain. We're going to relax and take our time, but we want to make the fight happen."

There are other options for Froch. Bernard Hopkins has thrown his hat into the ring. And Frank Warren has offered Froch 2.5 million pounds ($4 million) for a contest with Nathan Cleverly at a catchweight with the Welshman's World Boxing Organization light heavyweight belt on the line.

So far, that has been rejected. Hopkins, too, would have to be at a catchweight, Froch told me. Yet overall, Froch promised redemption, and delivered. He has Sky Box Office on his side, and as such, can draw the marquee fights.

At home Cleverly, and rising super middleweights George Groves and James DeGale, lie in wait. But for now, Froch sits on the throne, with a final battle yet to complete. And that battle must be won.

Any assertion of being the No. 1 super middleweight in the world will always hinge on a nagging doubt unless he faces Ward again. Beat Ward, and the journey would be complete. Then, and only then, could Froch claim to be the greatest super middleweight of this era.

And if Manny Steward read him right, Froch could win that fight. RING

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, London

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OF MICE AND (CUT) MEN

THE MYSTERIOUS ART OF STOPPING BLOOD FLOW

By **Scott LaFee**

A cutman has only 50-55 seconds to repair as much facial damage as possible between each round.

Ethan Miller/Getty Images

"I can't see nuthin.' Gotta cut open my eye. Cut me, Mick."

So urges a swollen-eyed Rocky Balboa in his climactic bout with Apollo Creed during the first of the *Rocky* movies. And Mick does. Or more precisely, his cutman does.

As entertainment, the first *Rocky* was an undisputed knockout. It won three Oscars in 1976, including Best Picture. As boxing *cinema verite*, well, the Italian Stallion's left hook was probably more on the mark, and, if you look closely, it never hit anything.

Case in point: Cutmen don't cut.

A cutman's job in the 50 to 55 seconds available between rounds is to repair as much superficial facial damage as possible and, says trainer Rudy Hernandez, also a professional cutman since 2004, "keep the fighter in the ring. That's your job: You're always trying to give them one more round."

Hernandez says the job isn't complicated – "there are no real secrets" – until you ask him to explain exactly what happens in those brief, bloody moments. "Well, that's hard to say," he replies. "I guess it's more complicated to describe it than to just do it."

A peek inside the cutman's tool kit is both self-explanatory and somewhat mysterious.

Water and clean towels are ubiquitous and obvious items, used to wipe away the fighter's blood, sweat and tears. OK, maybe not the last. There's no crying in boxing.

Ice packs are applied to cuts and bruises to slow blood flow and swelling.

A jar of petroleum jelly serves multiple purposes: It's smeared on prophylactically before and during bouts to help keep undamaged skin elastic and slippery, making it less likely to tear from a blow. And it can also be applied directly into wounds to help staunch blood flow.

Oversized cotton swabs and gauze pads are also kept handy.

Jacob "Stitch" Duran, who's been treating fighters in boxing and in mixed martial arts for more than 30 years, prefers a particular type of gauze coated with alginate (derived from seaweed) fibers, which are highly absorbent.

"Cotton behind the seaweed takes up the blood, dries it out faster, which avoids creating a gel," he said. "You don't want a gel on the gauze because it could take the clot with it when you pull away and start the bleeding again."

Enswells are small, shaped pieces of metal kept on ice and applied directly to places on the face where blood is pooling under the skin from broken vessels and damaged tissue. In medical parlance, a bump or bruise like this is called a hematoma. In boxing lingo, it's a "mouse." The idea is to apply cold, focused pressure to the mouse to reduce

or prevent swelling.

"Old school wisdom said you applied enough pressure with an enswell to move the mouse out of the injured area," said Duran. "That's no longer good advice because all you're really doing is pushing the clot into other tissues. You're expanding the area of damage."

Both Duran and Hernandez said it takes practice to use an enswell effectively.

"It's very important to apply just the right amount of pressure," said Hernandez. "Not too much to cause more injury or hurt the fighter. Not too little to do no good."

No tool kit is complete without coagulants to stop bleeding. In the past, some of these substances were based on liquid cauterization. In effect, they chemically burned and closed bleeding vessels. "They were terrible," said Duran. "They could create these terrible scars that you'd have to later cut out so that the tissue could heal correctly."

Such substances are now banned in most places and in most fights. The coagulant of choice (and law) is the compound adrenaline chloride, mixed one part per 1,000 parts of sterile water. Adrenaline (otherwise known as epinephrine) is a hormone and a neurotransmitter with multiple functions in the body. It helps regulate heart rate and metabolic shifts. It's released in abundance during times of high stress, part of the "fight-or-flight" response of the sympathetic nervous system.

Adrenaline also acts as vasoconstrictor. It narrows the diameter of blood vessels, something the body might require in cases of extreme cold to preserve warm blood flow to critical internal organs or to slow blood loss from a wound. Cutmen use AC 1:1000 for that last reason. Applied directly into flowing cuts (or mixed with petroleum jelly and daubed in), the compound can reduce worrisome hemorrhaging to a treatable trickle.

Of course, none of these tools are much good in the hands of somebody who doesn't know what to do with them. Both Hernandez and Duran say they learned their craft by listening and watching older pros for years, and by treating scores of fighters.

Every fighter, they say, is different. "There's no rule," said Hernandez. "Some fighters bruise easily, others bleed. You know some fighters are going to cut no matter how well a bout is going, and they're going to cut in the same places. Other fighters, like Shane Mosley, it was hard to tell he'd been in a fight. He didn't seem to bruise or cut."

Different fighters prefer different styles of cutmen, said Hernandez. Some like a chatty cutman, others don't want their cutman to say a word in the ring. Every fighter, however, wants a cutman to exude complete confidence between rounds, to communicate a belief that there is no damage they cannot quickly and effectively repair.

"Psychology is a big part of what we do," said Duran. "If a fighter sees even a little bit of panic in the cutman's face, there's concern. Part of our job is to reassure the fighter that he's OK and ready to go back out."

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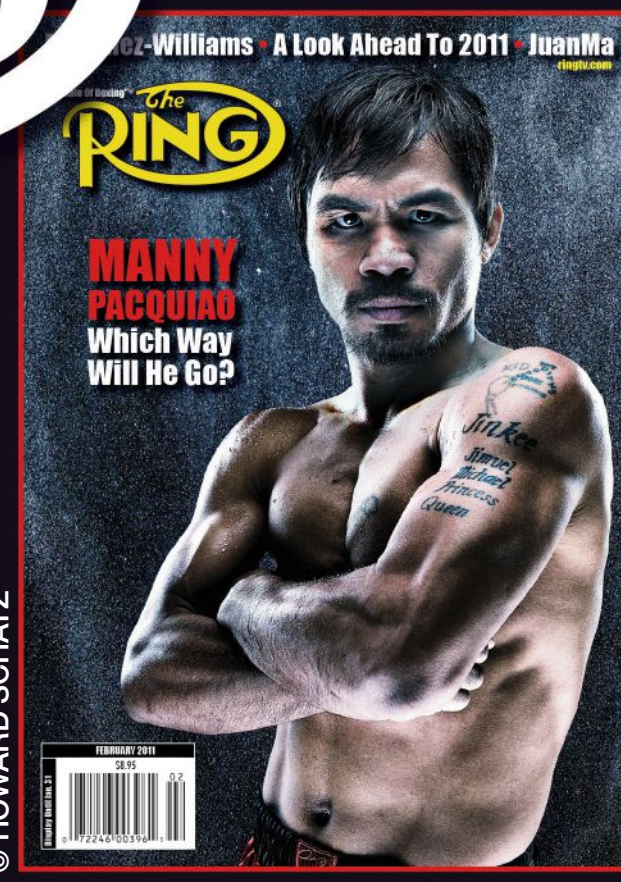

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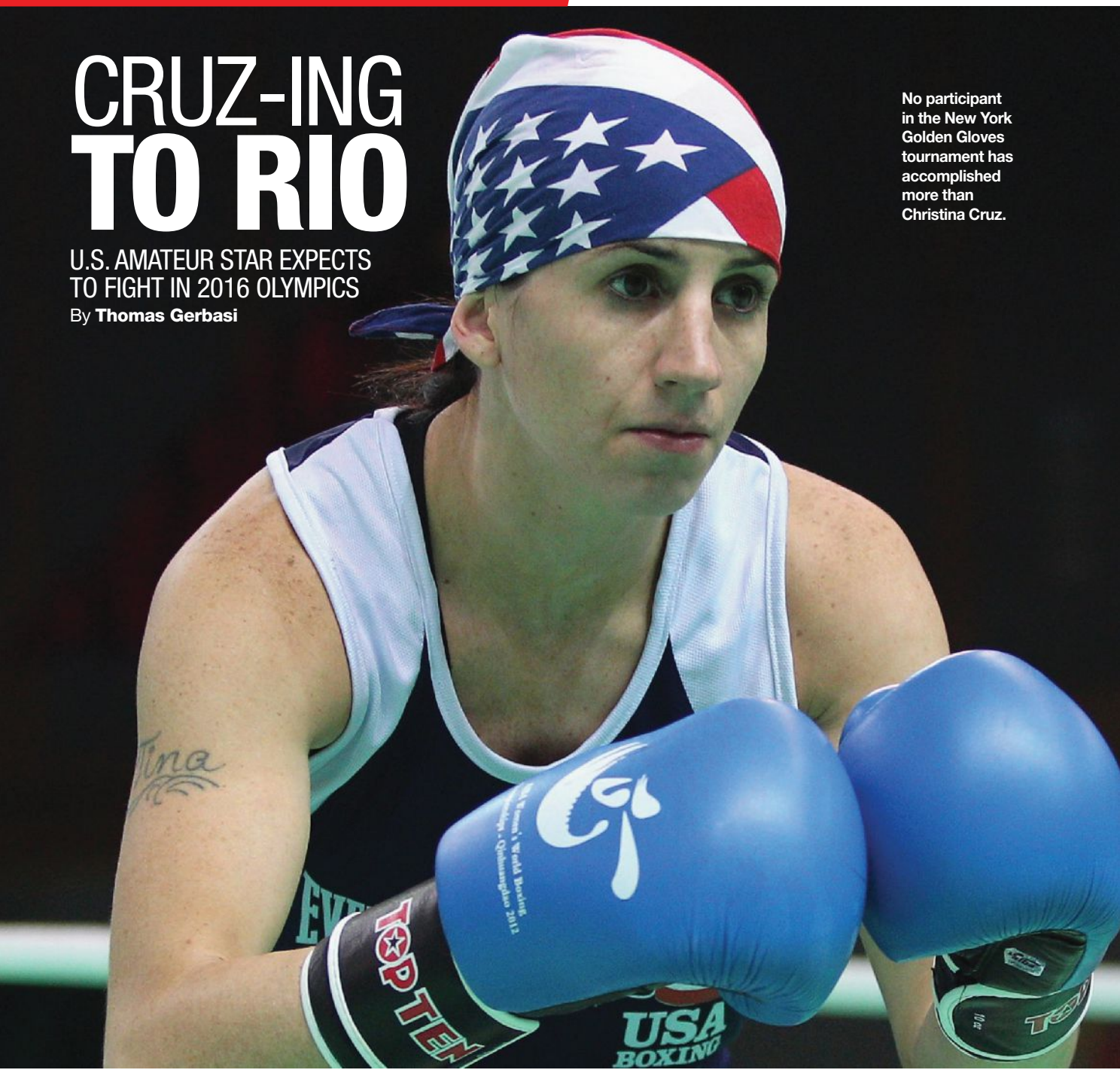
CRUZ-ING TO RIO

U.S. AMATEUR STAR EXPECTS TO FIGHT IN 2016 OLYMPICS

By **Thomas Gerbasi**



No participant in the New York Golden Gloves tournament has accomplished more than Christina Cruz.

For 86 years, the New York Golden Gloves tournament has launched the careers of the likes of Sugar Ray Robinson, Floyd Patterson, Riddick Bowe, Mark Breland and Emile Griffith. Yet none of them have matched the accomplishments of one young lady from Hell's Kitchen, Christina Cruz, winner of a record seven titles in the competition.

For a male boxer, such a resume would be the precursor to a litany of lucrative promises from promoters and managers, prompting an immediate jump to the pro game. For Cruz, who picked up her seventh title in April with a decision over Welley Wallo in the 125-pound final, it was another win, another set of gold gloves to wear around her neck and just another step toward the 2016 Olympics.

"I feel like women's boxing isn't so great in the pros," said Cruz. "I feel more recognized as an Olympic-style boxer than most of the women that fight pro. A lot of people don't even know who they are."

Feng Li/Getty Images

She's not exaggerating. In fact, the amateur game has become the hotbed for many of the sport's elite. Cruz has received plenty of attention in New York over the last few years, including a spot on CBS' *The Early Show*; 2012 United States gold medalist Claressa Shields has been featured on NPR; U.S. bronze winner Marlen Esparza was endorsed by Covergirl, and European gold medalists Nicola Adams (Great Britain) and Katie Taylor (Ireland) have garnered more than their share of mainstream media interest.

What do they all have in common? None have joined fellow standouts from the London Games Zou Shiming, Anthony Joshua, Anthony Ogogo, Joseph Diaz Jr., Marcus Browne, and Rau'Shee Warren in the pro ranks.

"It's not something that the fighters do wrong, because there are a lot of great (female) fighters," said Cruz. "It's just more people not wanting to promote it and manage women, and it's not given the recognition it deserves. You go to places like Mexico and other countries, and they show it on TV, but here in the United States they don't do that."

In the States, the women's pro game has become a wasteland, which strikes many as odd, considering that the sport's talent pool might be its deepest ever.

"I'm not sure what it is," said Cruz, who most recently won the 2013 Continental Championship in May at bantamweight. "You see the women fighters, and it's just like the men. Sometimes it's more exciting, and most of the times you go to a pro fight that's not televised you're there at the fights and the crowd goes wild watching the women fight. They just aren't getting the recognition they deserve."

In a lot of ways, this state of affairs goes back to the days when athletes were celebrated for taking their talents as far as they could as amateurs before entering the play-for-pay world. It may be a romantic or antiquated notion (or both), but there's something to be said for ballplayers sticking around for four years in college and boxers looking to represent their countries in the Olympics not as a tryout for a pro career, but as a privilege.

It's why the New Yorker initially took to boxing at 22 – simply for the love of the game.

"I started pretty late, but I think I've accomplished a lot more than a lot of people that started at a young age," said the 30-year-old, known for her fast hands and feet, as well as an accurate punching style that is perfect for the amateur game. "It just came to my life late, and I'm glad for it. I've always been an athlete, and I picked up on it pretty fast."

And after losing in her first Golden Gloves final to Cara Castronuova in 2006, Cruz has won seven pairs of gloves, three National PAL and two USA Boxing National titles. And even though she fell short of making the 2012 Olympic team, with three more weight classes being added for the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro (making six in all), she's confident she'll compete for gold in Brazil.

"I never had a clue in my mind that I would get this far," she said. "So it [winning an Olympic gold medal] would mean everything. The hard work would be paying off for me and for my fans, and it's something I think about all the time actually. It would mean the world." RING

POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS, Norway
22-0 (6 KOs)
Welterweight

2. ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS, France
27-3 (23 KOs)
Junior middleweight

3. AVA KNIGHT, U.S.
12-1-3 (5 KOs)
Flyweight

4. MELISSA HERNANDEZ, U.S.
18-4-3 (6 KOs)
Featherweight

5. JELENA MRDJENOVICH, Canada
29-9-1 (14 KOS)
Featherweight

6. LAYLA MCCARTER, U.S.
35-13-5 (8 KOs)
Junior middleweight

7. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP, Argentina
24-1 (11 KOs),
Junior flyweight

8. JESSICA CHAVEZ, Mexico
18-3-2 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

9. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS, Argentina
17-0 (9 KOs)
Lightweight

10. DIANA PRAZAK, Australia
12-2 (8 KOs)
Junior lightweight

Through fights of June 16

HAYE VS. FURY: A U.K. MEGAFIGHT

By **Gareth A Davies**

Promoter Eddie Hearn believes a fight between David Haye and Tyson Fury could "generate one of the biggest pay-per-view figures of all time."

Haye: Martin Rose/Bongarts/Getty Images; Fury: Christopher Lee/Getty Images

As THE RING Magazine went to press, promoter Eddie Hearn was openly stating that the heavyweight showdown between David Haye and Tyson Fury was almost finalized and is expected to take place on Sept. 28 in Manchester, England.

"We are now at a stage where this is close to happening," said Hearn. "It's a brilliant fight between a former world champion and an up-and-coming prospect." The outspoken pair have already engaged in a war of words with Haye having fancied the contest since Fury's victory over Steve Cunningham in his American debut.

"It is a fight that will have enormous interest and it could generate one of the biggest pay-per-view figures of all time," said Hearn. "I believe both fighters want the contest to take place because every fighter believes they can beat another fighter. I have to say that Tyson is a true character in a sport where we don't have enough characters anymore." Expect fireworks in the build-up between the two fighters, who love the hype. In my book, Haye wins by a sixth or seventh round KO.

★

WILLIE LIMOND: TURNING UP HEAT

Glasgow boxer Willie Limond has revealed the extraordinary steps he took to make weight for a lightweight fight in November 2011. Struggling to drop to the 135-pound limit for a fight against Anthony Crolla for the British lightweight title – which he lost – he turned up the heat in his kitchen, literally.

"I was finding it harder and harder to make lightweight," Limond told *The Telegraph*. "It got to the stage where I was training five times a day in the build-up to the Crolla fight just to pass the weigh-in. At one point I was working out in the kitchen and I turned on all the rings on the cooker to help me work up a sweat. It ended up being so hot that the tops of the cupboards melted, and I was forced to buy a whole new set of kitchen units."

Talk about sweating it out.

★

COPPER BOX: OLYMPIC LEGACY

Promoter Frank Warren has signed a six-event deal to host boxing in the Copper Box Arena at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, as the Olympic Games legacy begins to take shape. Billy Joe Saunders, the unbeaten British middleweight champion and a member of G.B.'s 2008 Olympic boxing team, will be the first boxer to headline in the Copper Box against challenger John Ryder in the first scheduled fight night on Sept 21. The new venue, which seats 7,000 spectators, will reinforce east London as the spiritual home of boxing in the UK.

It was known as the "box that rocks" during the London Olympics.

"This is a superb setting for boxing," Warren said. "The Copper Box is what all the investment in the Olympics was about – legacy and giving London a fantastic arena. I'm looking forward to bringing the big fights to this venue."

★

CHISORA, SCOTT: DISTASTEFUL

By the time some of you read this column, the July 20 fight between Dereck Chisora and Malik Scott at Wembley Arena will have come and gone. But Letters from Europe would like to record the bizarre and frankly distasteful phone conference – on June 20 – between the two heavyweights. There were more expletives than any fight has ever been hyped with. It wasn't pretty. Somehow, when you put two fighters on the phone, 5,000 miles apart, on a conference call with half a dozen journalists asking questions, they seem to forget themselves.

The conference call began quietly as Chisora described a new diet and gave an analysis of Scott. The American then obliged with his view on Chisora as a boxer. Then it went haywire.

Chisora started ranting fairly inaudibly. Scott chimed back: "Dereck, you know everything outside the ring. You're known for kissing men [repeated four times] at weigh-ins. You're going to need every bit of help it takes to beat me, boy. I'll f--- you up July 20."

"We'll see about that," retorted the Londoner. "You don't do the f------ up, I do the f------- up. I'll f--- you up." Then Scott again: "You kiss men. You kiss men. …"

"Have you got a problem with that, have you got a problem with that?" responded Chisora. Scott: "Shut the f--- up."

What followed was over a minute of inaudible haranguing and talking over each other. "You're just getting in shape," says Scott. "I walk around looking like a middleweight, boy." "July 20th I'm f------ you up," responded the North London heavyweight, sounding like a broken record.

Scott comes back: "You do whatever bull---- you want, man. I'm from North Philly. We eat people like you for breakfast, lunch and dinner and spit you out. July 20th I'm f----- you up. … I'm f------ you up, boy. You shmuck, you're an a------. I told you I'm gonna f--- you up when I see you. I can't wait to see you, man. …"

Chisora ramps it up again:

"July 20th you are mine. Your ass is mine. I've told you: You're going to come here as a slave, I'm gonna slave you … That's what I'm doing right now. Yeah, you're gonna make me money on TV, make me a big payday. You just come and get your money and …"

Scott interrupts: "July 20 is mine. …" Inaudible arguing again.

Scott begins the goading again: "You're known for doing everything outside the ring, you're not known for nothing in the ring. You take good asswhoopings for a living, buddy. You kiss men at weigh-ins. You's a [gay slur] where I come from."

The shouting then went on for a few minutes. For the record, there were seven questions from four journalists in the 25-minute call. Funny, or just bizarre. It might have captured a few headlines, but this is a sport and it was in poor taste. North Philly vs. North Finchley. No fight deserves this kind of hype.

★

QUIGG, FRAMPTON: ON THE MOVE

Scott Quigg and Carl Frampton, the two unbeaten, standout junior featherweights on this side of the pond, are on the move promotionally. Quigg has signed a promotional deal with Matchroom Sport and Eddie Hearn, switching from Ricky Hatton's banner, while the impressive Carl Frampton, who is overseen by former world champion Barry McGuigan, has left Matchroom and will be co-promoted by Frank Warren.

"I came into boxing wanting to be a world champion. I don't want to settle at British or European level," said Quigg after the move. Hearn says Quigg is "on the cusp of challenging for a world title."

Frampton's move, meanwhile, was the result of a promotional dispute with Matchroom. "After the success of the last Frampton fight [against Kiko Martinez in February] we were informed by Barry McGuigan that he wanted to be joint promoter in future Frampton fights," said Hearn. "Whilst we had no problem whatsoever in agreeing to purses for Carl Frampton, we felt that such a relationship with Barry McGuigan represented a potential conflict of interest with Barry's role as Carl's Manager, and we could therefore not agree to be involved on this basis." The burning issue, of course, is when Quigg will face Frampton in a ring. Let's hope it's sooner rather than later.

★

ANDREW SELBY: MAKING HISTORY

Great Britain's Olympian flyweight, Andrew Selby, defeated Michael Conlan of Ireland to become the first boxer from Great Britain to retain the European amateur flyweight title. The European amateur crown remains one of the toughest tests for amateurs, including as it does the entire former Soviet bloc.

Selby, 24, from South Wales defeated the Irishman 2-1 to reaffirm his status as the No. 1 flyweight in the world in the official AIBA world rankings. It was Selby's fifth medal at a major tournament. He won bronze medals at the European Championships in 2008 and 2010, gold in 2011 and took silver at the 2011 World Championships in Baku. Since the London Olympic Games, Selby has won 14 successive bouts including the European championships.

U.K. TOP 10

Gareth A Davies' monthly pound-for-pound list for British boxers.

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. DAVID HAYE
4. RICKY BURNS
5. KELL BROOK
6. NATHAN CLEVERLY
7. CARL FRAMPTON
8. TYSON FURY
9. SCOTT QUIGG
10. JAMIE MCDONNELL

THE NEXT FIVE:

11. MARTIN MURRAY
12. DARREN BARKER
13. MATTHEW MACKLIN
14. PAUL BUTLER
15. DAVID PRICE

Through fights of June 16

MARTIN MURRAY: CHASING A TITLE

Martin Murray is targeting a world title fight in the United States before the end of the year. The St. Helens middleweight proved beyond any doubt that he belongs on boxing's elite stage when he dropped WBC middleweight champ Sergio Martinez before losing a close, and controversial, decision in April in Buenos Aires.

Although Murray turned down an offer to fight Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., which was made by Bob Arum soon after the Martinez fight, Murray tells me he would still consider facing the Mexican and is happy to travel.

Middleweight contender Martin Murray wants a shot at a major title in the U.S.

Paula Ribas/LatinContent/Getty Images

"I'm open to all offers at middleweight, whether it be against Chavez Jr. or whoever," he said. "I'd even go up to super middle to face Carl Froch. I've proven that I'm an elite fighter twice already, and I've been unlucky both times [a draw against Felix Sturm and the Martinez fight]. I know I belong at the top level, and I know I'm good enough to become a world champion."

★

COLIN HART: HALL OF FAMER

The doyen of U.K. boxing writers, Colin Hart, was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., in June after five decades of masterful copy.

"It was a remarkable experience," he told me. "It was great to see guys like Gerry Cooney and Marvin Hagler. It's incredible to think I never had any intention to write about sport when I started, aged 17, as an 'indentured journalist.'"

"What that meant in English was that we were three years of cheap labor. I got 2 pounds, 10 shillings (per day, about $3.85) the first year, 3 pounds the second and 3 pounds, 10 shillings the third year."

In his speech, he thanked all the fighters from various decades for providing him with wonderful material, including the ones sitting behind him.

"Except Jake LaMotta, who's closing in on the grand old age of 92," said Hart. "Not even I'm that old. …" LaMotta, of course, was happy to relate his great line that he "fought Sugar Ray Robinson so many times, it was a wonder I didn't get diabetes." The old ones are always the best ones: the fighters, the writers and the jokes. Cheers.

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, London.

Carl Froch celebrates his long-awaited revenge against Mikkel Kessler.

CARL FROCH UD 12
MIKKEL KESSLER
Date: May 25
Site: O_2 Arena, London
Division: Super middleweight
Weights: Froch 167¾; Kessler 166½
Ring rating (going into the fight): Froch No. 1; Kessler No. 2
Network: HBO/Sky Box

★ The Carl Froch-Mikkel Kessler rivalry is begging to become a trilogy. That was obvious after their rematch in May, which was as compelling as Part I but didn't settle anything.

Froch (31-2, 22 knockouts) won the fight, scoring a hard-fought decision over Denmark's Kessler (46-3, 35 KOs) in a gritty, stubborn style that has made the Nottingham super middleweight a U.K. fighter at least nearly as popular as Ricky Hatton and Joe Calzaghe once were.

London's O_2 Arena was jammed with U.K. partisans, who roared their approval at the way Froch avenged a loss to Kessler three years ago in Denmark. There's the appealing English bulldog in Froch. He's not as clever as Bernard Hopkins or as slick and quick as Andre Ward. But he's not going away. If anything, the 35-year-old Froch seems to be getting better. Hopkins at a catchweight or Ward in a rematch of Froch's Super Six loss to the American might be there before a third fight with Kessler.

Either fight would be marketable. Froch's emerging popularity in the U.K. has transformed him into a box-office power. That's a potential edge he didn't have a couple of years ago in a 2011 loss by unanimous decision to Ward in Atlantic City, N.J.

From his ringside seat in London as HBO analyst, Ward had to notice and wonder whether a U.K. crowd would endanger his chances against Froch in a rematch. Froch

Scott Heavey/Getty Images

would welcome the chance. Ward and Kessler are the only two to beat him.

"He's very good at what he does, but he's not an entertaining fighter," Froch said when asked about Ward. "He's not going to brawl. He's not going the get the crowd out of their seats."

Against Kessler, that wasn't a problem for Froch.

The O_2 seats were props or at least something to stand on for fans caught up in in the back-and-forth exchanges. In the early rounds, Froch outworked Kessler at a rate dictated by a consistent jab. But Kessler's natural quickness asserted itself in the middle to late rounds.

In the sixth, two Kessler rights rocked Froch, who countered with a solid right of his own late in the seventh. In the ninth, Kessler rocked Froch again. In the 11th, a Kessler left bloodied Froch's left eye. In the end, however, Froch would not relent. On the cards, he won 118-110, 116-112 and 115-113.

When the scores were announced, Kessler smiled, but not because he doubted their validity. Instead, he knew that they added up to another possibility: Froch-Kessler III.

- Norm Frauenheim

ADONIS STEVENSON TKO 1 CHAD DAWSON

Date: June 8
Site: Bell Centre, Montreal
Division: Light heavyweight
Weights: Stevenson 174¼; Dawson 173½
Ring rating (going into the fight): Dawson champion; Stevenson No. 9 super middleweight
Network: HBO

★ It was a swift introduction that Adonis Stevenson delivered ruthlessly and Chad Dawson regretted immediately.

For weeks, Dawson said he knew nothing about Stevenson. Dawson made Stevenson look about as anonymous as a weathered speed bag with jokes about having to go to Google to find out anything about him. Dawson must have skipped YouTube and video of Stevenson's knockout power.

If Dawson had seen it and studied it, he might not have looked so foolishly unprepared for a Stevenson left that struck him on the temple and dropped him in a first-round stoppage that stripped him of the light heavyweight title and left only doubts about his future.

"It was a punch I didn't see," Dawson told ringside media after referee Michael Griffin ended it at 76 seconds of the opening round.

Didn't foresee, either.

After all, Stevenson's raw power has been evident for a while, or at least since his crushing, first-round stoppage of a former prospect Jesus Gonzales in February of last year, also in Montreal. By then, Stevenson (21-1, 18 KOs) had attracted the attention of Emanuel Steward, who had begun to work with him before the Hall of Fame trainer's death eight months later. Stevenson continues to wear the distinctive red and gold of Kronk, the Detroit gym founded by Steward.

Dawson (31-3, 17 KOs) fought and lost to Andre Ward. He fought and beat Bernard Hopkins. He has experienced the best. But he forgot a basic lesson about homework. Dawson didn't do it, or else he would have relied on quick feet and a proven jab to stay away in the early rounds.

"I caught him, and that's a beautiful punch," Stevenson said moments after ring announcer Michael Buffer declared that a new superstar had been born.

Perhaps, stardom awaits Stevenson, although his unmistakable power might turn him into a feared fighter avoided by those with a lot to lose.

"You know why people don't want to fight me now," said Stevenson, who emerged from the bout as the only Canadian with a major title.

Other than the power, what we only know is that Stevenson is a late bloomer. He's 35 years old. He did four years in prison for assault and pimping convictions. He didn't start fighting as a pro until 2006. His late arrival to boxing might mean tactical vulnerabilities that a Hopkins could detect and exploit. Hopkins has mentioned Stevenson. Tavoris Cloud and U.K. light heavyweight Tony Bellew are possibilities. Stevenson says he wants a shot at Ward.

Whoever it is, they'll know all about Stevenson. Dawson made sure of that.

- Norm Frauenheim

MIKEY GARCIA TKO 4 JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ

Date: June 15
Site: American Airlines Center, Dallas
Division: Featherweight
Weights: Garcia 128; Lopez 125¼
Ring rating (going into the fight): Garcia champion; Lopez No. 10
Network: HBO

★ There was only one surprise: Mikey

Mikey Garcia failed to make weight but succeeded in his mission – to destroy Juan Manuel Lopez.

Garcia failed to make weight. Everything else went exactly as expected from Garcia, whose technical proficiency possessed a poise and precision that made Juan Manuel Lopez look sad, sloppy and a lot older than his 29 years.

Discussion about how and why Garcia lost an acronym-sanctioned belt on the scale was predictable. So was the criticism. He was two pounds heavier than the 126 mandatory, surprising because of who he is. Look at Garcia's demeanor. Read his resume. Garcia studied to be a cop. He knows that the fine print – details as small as two pounds – matter. Garcia, perhaps more than any fighter, figured to make weight.

He didn't, he said, because illness forced him to miss some training. But a misstep on the fickle scale might have been nothing more than a misguided quest to defend a title the 25-year-old Garcia has outgrown. Garcia (32-0, 27 KOs) talked about still fighting at 126. But his stoppage of Lopez (33-3, 30 KOs) looked a lot like goodbye to featherweight and hello to junior lightweight. His promoter, Top Rank's Bob Arum, urged him to move up and into a speculated fight against Ramon "Rocky" Martinez.

"I feel like I could fight here and regain my title," Garcia told ringside media. "But there is still an option to move up to 130, and if I decide to stay at 130 because I feel comfortable there after I try it, I may decide to stay there."

Against the faded Lopez, Garcia looked as if he could dominate junior lightweight as thoroughly as he has feather. Weight was not the issue 24 hours after the formal weigh-in. His footwork and right hand were. Lopez was floored by a right late in the second round. In the fourth, successive rights followed by a left put Lopez on his back. He was up at the count of six. But a battered left eye and resigned smile said he knew it was over. Referee Rafael Ramos ended it at 1:34 of the round.

Lopez, an emerging star five years ago, has never been the same since he was stopped twice by Orlando Salido, who then lost to Garcia. He was off-balance at the opening bell and awkward. In his swollen face, there was the look of a shot fighter. But, he told the Puerto Rican media, he's not finished.

"Retirement is not in me," said Lopez, who might want to reconsider when he realizes there is not much left of something else.

It's called a future.

- Norm Frauenheim

NO. 8 TONY BELLEW UD 12 NO. 7 ISAAC CHILEMBA

May 25, London (Box Nation)

★ This time, Tony Bellew left no doubt.

Bellew and Isaac Chilemba fought to a boring draw on March 30 yet the light heavyweights opted for an immediate rematch.

Bellew (20-1-1, 12 KOs) was more aggressive in the second meeting and banked many early rounds. Chilemba rebounded to a degree but was never quite active enough, which allowed Bellew to win close rounds on superior work rate alone. The popular Brit smothered Chilemba and sought to bully him into the ropes. He applied pressure and scored with power shots. Chilemba capitalized on counterpunching opportunities, but the openings were sparse.

Chilemba (20-2-2, 9 KOs) simply never asserted himself in the fight. He closed strongly, but it was once again too little, too late. Bellew, now the WBC's mandatory challenger, is expected to meet RING champion Adonis Stevenson later this year.

NO. 1 OMAR NARVAEZ SD 12 FELIPE ORUCUTA

May 25, Buenos Aires, Argentina

★ At 37, Omar Narvaez is clearly in the twilight.

The two-time Olympian from Argentina escaped with his WBO junior bantamweight title around his waist, but just barely. Little-known Felipe Orucuta pushed Narvaez to the limit and many observers, including one judge, felt he deserved the nod. That judge scored the bout for Orucuta 118-110, but he was overruled by tallies of 115-113 and 115-113 for Narvaez.

Narvaez (39-1-2, 20 KOs) is a slippery southpaw but isn't as quick as he once was and elected to stand toe-to-toe with the 27-year-old Mexican. Orucuta (27-2, 23 KOs) seemed to win most of the exchanges and inflicted a lot of punishment. But Narvaez was fighting in his hometown and surely was given the benefit of the doubt in close rounds.

Orucuta, who is trained by Hall of Famer Nacho Beristain, entered the RING ratings at No. 10 on the strength of this performance and figures to get another meaningful fight soon.

YURIORKIS GAMBOA UD 12 DARLEY PEREZ

June 8, Montreal (HBO)

★ Yuriorkis Gamboa didn't resemble the electrifying fighter who blasted his way to featherweight titles. Instead of the fire-fisted, lightning-quick dynamo fans clamored for, they saw the Cuban eke out a victory in a listless performance against Darley Perez.

The scores were 116-111, 115-112 and 116-111 for Gamboa.

Gamboa (23-0, 16 KOs) moved up in weight for the second time in as many fights, but at just 5-foot-5 with a 65-inch reach, he seems ill-suited for lightweight.

The 2004 Olympic gold medalist scored a flash knockdown in Round 1 after cuffing Perez and controlled the first third of the bout. Perez rebounded in the middle rounds with crisp combinations and prospered down the stretch.

Perez (28-1, 19 KOs) seemed to score a knockdown in Round 11 when he landed a short counter left, but referee Marlon B. Wright ruled that Gamboa slipped.

It was Gamboa's second victory under upstart promoter 50 Cent.

JERMELL CHARLO UD 12 DEMETRIUS HOPKINS

June 8, Carson, Calif. (Showtime)

★ Jermell Charlo, one of the top prospects in the junior middleweight division, scored a close but clear unanimous decision victory over Demetrius Hopkins in the opening fight of a Showtime Championship Boxing tripleheader.

All three judges turned in the same tally:

Naoki Fukuda

Marcos Maidana (left) remained a major player in the welterweight division by stopping tough Josesito Lopez.

115-113 for Charlo.

Charlo (21-0, 10 KOs) and Hopkins (33-3-1, 13 KOs) turned in a complete snoozer, and the record crowd of 8,629 at the StubHub Center voiced their displeasure with the lack of action throughout.

Charlo engaged occasionally, but Hopkins, mimicking his legendary uncle Bernard Hopkins the best he could, mugged and held Charlo on the inside. Every time Charlo tried to follow up on his educated jab with power shots, Hopkins tied him up.

Following the victory, Charlo lobbied for a shot against the winner of the July 19 IBF junior middleweight title fight between Ishe Smith and Carlos Molina.

NO. 4 ERISLANDY LARA TKO 10 ALFREDO ANGULO

June 8, Carson, Calif. (Showtime)

★ Erislandy Lara couldn't escape controversy once again but finally earned a big victory.

Angulo (22-3, 18 KOs) applied nonstop pressure, while the Cuban boxed off the ropes and placed well-timed counters. Lara's southpaw style gave Angulo fits, but Angulo pounded the body and in the fourth round dropped Lara with a left hook to the face.

Lara continued to walk the hard-charging Mexican into big shots, but in Round 9, Angulo dropped Lara again. The fight was reaching a fever pitch, but screeched to a sudden halt in the following round when Angulo quit.

Angulo, his left eye badly damaged from repeated left hands, turned his back on Lara in Round 10, which forced referee Raul Caiz Sr. to stop the contest at 1:50 of Round 10.

Lara (18-1-2, 12 KOs) was ahead on two of three scorecards at the time of the stoppage: 85-84 and 85-84. Angulo was leading on the third card 86-83.

MARCOS MAIDANA TKO 6 JOSESITO LOPEZ

June 8, Carson, Calif. (Showtime)

★ Marcos Maidana and Josesito Lopez were both at crossroads. For the winner, there would be further relevance in the rich welterweight sweepstakes. For the loser, there would be apprehension about the future.

It's no wonder Maidana and Lopez fought with a heightened sense of urgency. They had no choice. In the end, it was Maidana (34-3, 31 KOs) who prevailed with just enough power to win a sixth-round TKO in a bout fought at a breakneck pace.

"Guts got me this victory," said Maidana, who was down in the fourth round and trailing by one point on two cards when Lou Moret stopped it.

Maidana swarmed Lopez (30-6, 18 KOs) with punches early in the sixth. Dazed, Lopez never saw an overhand right that put him on one knee. Maidana swarmed again, this time landing a right uppercut. Moret had seen enough. He stopped it at 1:18 of the round. Lopez complained that it was premature. But the crowd at the StubHub Center had only cheers for a thriller.

NO. 1 MARCO HUCK MD 12 NO. 3 OLA AFOLABI

June 8, Berlin (Box Nation)

★ Marco Huck settled his rivalry with rival Ola Afolabi once and for all.

Huck (36-2-1, 25 KOs) edged Afolabi

Naoki Fukuda

amid controversy in 2009. In 2012, the cruiserweights settled for a debatable draw. But this time even Afolabi didn't argue the decision, as Huck won by scores of 114-114, 115-113 and 117-111.

The German jumped out to a sizeable lead in a bout that featured some back-and-forth action but failed to live up to the war they waged last year. Afolabi (19-3-4, 9 KOs) rallied down the stretch and turned it into a dogfight. He buckled Huck in the final round and had the WBO titleholder reeling, but Huck made it to the finish line.

Huck is slated to fight No. 8-rated Firat Arslan this fall in a rematch of their spirited November 2012 bout.

BRYANT JENNINGS TKO 6 ANDREY FEDOSOV

June 14, Bethlehem, Pa.
(NBC Sports Net)

★ Bryant Jennings might not turn out to be the proverbial next great American heavyweight but his run at that moniker has been fun.

The Philadelphian turned back game-but-limited fringe contender Andrey Fedosov with a sixth-round knockout in the main event of NBC Sports Net's Fight Night.

Fedosov (24-3, 19 KOs) stalked Jennings and fought him on even terms over the first two rounds with a concerted body attack. But in Round 3, Jennings took over with his superior athleticism and skill set. He buckled the Russian in the third round with a big right uppercut-left hook combo and tried to finish him.

Fedosov elected to trade rather than clinch and somehow survived the round, but not without damage. His eye was cut and swollen shut. Referee Steve Smoger stopped the competitive bout with Fedosov on his stool at the end of the sixth round.

Jennings (17-0, 9 KOs) seems to be progressing each time out and might be on the cusp of a RING rating at heavyweight.

NO. 3 SERGEI KOVALEV TKO 3 CORNELIUS WHITE

June 14, Bethlehem, Pa.
(NBC Sports Net)

★ Sergei Kovalev is one scary puncher. The Russian-based light heavyweight mowed down Cornelius White in just three rounds, his 18th knockout inside three full rounds in 22 fights.

Kovalev (21-0-1, 19 KOs) is more than just a fighter with cinder blocks for hands, though. He varied his attack to the body and displayed great punch selection, attributes that might carry him to a championship.

He started fast, landing 29 of 59 power shots in the opening round. Kovalev continued his furious attack and staggered White (21-2, 16 KOs) in the second round.

At 1:42 of Round 3, Kovalev ended the bout. He spun White like a top with a power jab for the first knockdown. Moments later, White was down again, this time as a result of a left hook. Kovalev stalked and unleashed a flurry, dropping White for the third and final time, prompting referee Gary Rosato to halt the bout.

With the victory, Kovalev became the mandatory challenger to the IBF title held by Bernard Hopkins.

MATT KOROBOV KO 3 OSSIE DURAN

June 15, Dallas (HBO)

★ Matt Korobov entered the professional ranks amid much fanfare, but so far he's been a major disappointment. Maybe he's coming around.

The 2008 Olympian from Russia easily dispensed of Ossie Duran on the off-TV undercard of Mikey Garcia-JuanMa Lopez. Duran is a highly durable veteran who had never been stopped in 40 pro fights, including a bout against top-flight puncher James Kirkland.

Korobov (20-0, 12 KOs) dropped Duran with a flurry late in the second round. The following round, Korobov finished matters with a vicious left hand to the stomach. Duran (28-11-2, 11 KOs) was debilitated by the shot and referee Robert Chapa reached the count of 10 at 51 seconds of Round 3.

It stands as the signature victory of Korobov's career and could propel him to a meaningful middleweight fight in the fall.

TERENCE CRAWFORD TKO 6 ALEJANDRO SANABRIA

June 15, Dallas (HBO)

★Terence Crawford's introduction went from interesting to intriguing in only his second appearance on HBO.

With Adrien Broner on the move from 135 pounds to 147, Crawford (21-0, 16 KOs) emerged as a lightweight contender with a sixth-round TKO of Alejandro Sanabria (34-2-1, 25 KOs). In fact, there's some talk that he might be the division's best. We'll see. But Crawford's stoppage of Sanabria at 17 seconds of the sixth round had to be an eye-opener for Miguel Vazquez, Ricky Burns, Richar Abril and anybody else at the top of the weight class.

Hints at Crawford's star potential were there in his upset of Breidis Prescott in March. They were confirmed against Sanabria, a Mexico City fighter who was rocked in the third, again in the fourth and floored in the sixth by a left-hand lead that finished him.

NO. 6 VANES MARTIROSYAN TKO 2 RYAN DAVIS

June 15, Dallas (HBO)

★ Vanes Martirosyan has junior middleweight power, an impressive record (33-0-1, 21 KOs) and an Olympic pedigree. He has it all, it seems, but one thing: A major title.

A crushing, second-round stoppage of Ryan Davis might have put Martirosyan, a 2004 Olympian, closer to one even if victory was expected. Davis, a pedestrian talent from East Saint Louis, Ill., never had a chance.

Davis (24-11-3, 9 KOs), who lost a decision to Zab Judah in 2007, was knocked down twice by right hands from Martirosyan, who drew with Erislandy Lara in November. After the second knockdown, Davis' corner threw in the towel at 2:01 of the round.

At 27, the clock is ticking for Martirosyan. He has hired Cameron Dunkin as his manager. Top Rank is his promoter. The clout is there for the next couple of maneuvers that could give him a chance at that missing crown.

FIGHT RESULTS THROUGH JUNE 16, 2013

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Jovo Pudar TKO 2 Adnan Buharalija
Carlos Takam TKO 8 Michael Grant
Oleg Maskaev UD 10 Jason Gavern
Billy Wright KO 1 Guido Santana
Chauncy Welliver TKO 3 Saul Farah
Irineu Beato Costa Junior KO 1 Hector Avila
Fres Oquendo UD 10 Derric Rossy
Andy Ruiz Jr. KO 1 Carl Davis
Bryant Jennings TKO 6 Andrey Fedosov
Gonzalo Basile TKO 7 Victor Gimenez
Manuel Charr TKO 3 Oleksiy Mazikin
Denis Boytsov KO 3 Oleksandr Nesterenko
Enad Licina KO 3 Marcel Zeller
Artur Szpilka UD 10 Brian Minto

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Isidro Prieto TKO 3 Fernando Caceres
Dmitry Kudryashov TKO 5 Prince George Akrong
Neil Dawson TKO 2 Chris Keane
Denton Daley TKO 4 Faisal Ibnel Arrami
Marino Goles TKO 2 Peter Hegyes
Daniel Bruwer TKO 11 Fikile Nyalunga
Marco Huck MD 12 Ola Afolabi
Youri Kalenga KO 2 Iago Kiladze
Mirko Larghetti TKO 8 Vincenzo Rossitto
Pawel Kolodziej UD 8 Cesar Crenz

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Tony Bellew UD 12 Isaac Chilemba
Stefano Abatangelo TKO 7 Emanuele Barletta
Matty Clarkson W 10 Carl Wild
Dmitry Sukhotsky KO 3 Mikhail Krinitsin
Adonis Stevenson TKO 1 Chad Dawson
Eduard Gutknecht UD 12 Richard Vidal
Robert Woge UD 12 Dariusz Sek
Joey Vegas TKO 11 Hany Atiyo
Sergei Kovalev TKO 3 Cornelius White
Erik Skoglund UD 8 Lorenzo Di Giacomo
Librado Andrade KO 1 Eduardo Ayala
Ryno Liebenberg UD 12 Johnny Muller

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Carl Froch UD 12 Mikkel Kessler
George Groves TKO 5 Noe Gonzalez Alcoba
Enes Zecirevic UD 10 Mikheil Khutsishvili
Farah Ennis UD 10 Anthony Hanshaw
Mouhamed Ali Ndiaye SD 12 Christopher Rebrasse
James DeGale TKO 4 Stjepan Bozic
Massimiliano Buccheri UD 10 Roberto Cocco

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Alex Theran KO 5 Gaston Vega
Bruno Sandoval UD 12 Rafael Sosa Pintos
Albert Onolunose MD 10 Michael Walchuk
Andrey Meryasev TD 6 Alvaro Gaona
Daisuke Nakagawa TKO 3 Elvin Marbun
Paul Mendez UD 10 Alfredo Contreras
Nick Brinson UD 10 Jorge Melendez
Les Sherrington TKO 2 Jorge Gomez
Lukasz Wawrzyczek UD 12 Alexey Ribchev
David Lemieux TKO 1 Robert Swierzbinski
Vitaliy Kopylenko KO 6 Vuk Mitic
Chris Eubank Jr. TKO 8 Tyan Booth
Patrick Nielsen KO 4 Crispulo Andino
Arman Torosyan TKO 7 Reda Zam Zam
Harry Joe Yorgey MD 10 Julius Kennedy
Matt Korobov TKO 3 Ossie Duran

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Javier Maciel TKO 2 Everaldo Praxedes
Domonique Dolton TKO 5 Basilio Silva
Daniel Sandoval UD 10 Claudinei Lacerda
Delvin Rodriguez TKO 8 Freddy Hernandez
David Zegarra TKO 3 Adailton Dos Santos
Brandon Cook TKO 1 Fitz Vanderpool
(F) Anne Sophie Mathis TKO 5 Yahaira Hernandez
Daquan Arnett TKO 5 Miguel Zuniga
Jermall Charlo TKO 2 Luis Hernandez
Jorge Paez Jr. KO 1 Edinson Garcia
Erislandy Lara TKO 10 Alfredo Angulo
Jermell Charlo UD 12 Demetrius Hopkins
Zakaria Attou UD 12 Luca Michael Pasqua
Vanes Martirosyan TKO 2 Ryan Davis

WELTERWEIGHTS
Ahmet Patterson W 10 Dale Miles
Ramon de la Cruz Sena KO 6 Leandro Pinto
Damien Martin SD 10 Kamal Mohamed
Roman Belaev KO 9 Nasser Athumani
Javier Molina KO 1 Francisco Parra
Marcos Maidana TKO 6 Josesito Lopez
Johan Perez UD 10 Yoshihiro Kamegai
Patrick Allotey KO 6 Patrick Bogere
Ray Narh UD 10 Ronald Cruz
Ivan Alvarez UD 10 Jorge Silva
Mikael Zewski UD 8 Damian Frias

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Chris Howard TD 6 Issouf Kinda
Cesar Cuenca UD 10 Gustavo Bermudez
Martin Coggi KO 5 Diego Luque
Francisco Perez KO 1 Oscar Cortes
Jimrex Jaca UD 12 Jose Emilio Perea
Jason Pagara UD 12 Aaron Herrera
Ekapol Singwancha KO 2 Mike Tumbaga
Zahir Raheem TKO 4 Justin Juuko

Willie Limond UD 12 Mitch Prince
Michele Di Rocco UD 12 Lenny Daws
Humberto Soto TKO 9 Hiroshi Nakamori
Javier Prieto TKO 7 Mario Cuevas
Roberto Ortiz TKO 10 Jorge Romero
Fidel Maldonado Jr. KO 1 Abraham Osuna
Mzolisi Yoyo TKO 2 Luyanda Jako

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Abdiel Ramirez TKO 2 Jorge Martinez
Miguel Roman KO 5 Rafael Urias
Marcelino Lopez D 10 Sergio Escobar
Hector Velazquez TKO 3 Gilberto Perez
Ammeth Diaz KO 7 Martin Gethin
Fermin de los Santos TKO 6 Hector Marquez
Andrey Klimov MD 10 John Molina
Yuriorkis Gamboa UD 12 Darley Perez
Jose Felix Jr. TKO 1 Fernando Garcia
(F) Maria Maderna MD 10 Enis Pacheco
Yvan Mendy UD 10 Marvin Petit
(F) Erica Anabella Farias UD 10 Chika Mizutani
Matias Ezequiel Gomez KO 2 Pedro Saldias
Juan Pablo Sanchez UD 12 Juan Aguirre
Ty Barnett TKO 6 Stephan Alexander
Terence Crawford TKO 6 Alejandro Sanabria

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

(F) Ronica Jeffrey UD 10 Olivia Gerula
Teon Kennedy UD 10 Carlos Vinan
Jose Pedraza TKO 7 Sergio Villanueva
Adrian Estrella KO 1 Luis Carlos Martinez
(F) Diana Prazak TKO 8 Frida Wallberg
Juan Antonio Rodriguez TKO 4 Sergio Torres

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jezreel Corrales UD 10 Irving Berry
Carlos Zambrano UD 8 Victor Coronado
Mark Gil Melligen TKO 6 James Mokoginta
(F) Jelena Mrdjenovich TD 6 Melissa Hernandez
Miguel Marriaga TKO 3 Iwier Henriquez
Sofiane Takoucht D 12 Ivan Ruiz Morote
(F) Elina Tissen UD 10 Doris Koehler
Ryosei Arai UD 8 Junki Sasaki
Derrick Wilson UD 10 Braulio Santos
Mario Pisanti TD 6 Antonio Cossu
Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo TKO 6 Jovill Marayan
Ronny Rios TKO 6 Leonilo Miranda
Yenifel Vicente TKO 4 Jorge Diaz
Mikey Garcia TKO 4 Juan Manuel Lopez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

James Dickens W 10 Dai Davies
Horacio Garcia TKO 4 Orlando Garcia
Genesis Servania KO 3 Isack Junior
Jonathan Baat TD 9 Qiu Xiao Jun
Jason Mitsuyama SD 10 Ryoji Okahata
Luis Cusolito TD 4 Julian Aristule
Hugo Cazares KO 1 Gabriel Altarejos
Hugo Ruiz TKO 2 Giovanni Caro
Rey Vargas KO 2 Cecilio Santos
Kid Galahad TKO 5 Isaac Nettey
Jesse Magdaleno TKO 4 Henry Maldonado
Shingo Wake TKO 9 Eita Kikuchi

BANTAMWEIGHTS

(F) Carolina Duer D 10 Sabrina Perez
Khabir Suleymanov UD 10 Michael Ruiz Jr.
Roman Gonzalez TKO 5 Ronald Barrera
Marlon Tapales TKO 4 Ruben Manakane
Tiger Tor Buamas UD 12 Richard Garcia
(F) Daniela Bermudez TKO 1 Neisi Torres
Luis Melendez TKO 5 Freddy Beleno
Toto Helebe SD 12 Klaas Mboyane
Ryo Akaho KO 4 Elmar Francisco
Daiki Kameda TKO 6 Aaron Bobadilla
Hiroki Shiino KO 2 Dennis Tubieron
Juan Carlos Payano KO 7 Jundy Maraon
Luis May UD 12 Naciff Castillo

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Omar Narvaez SD 12 Felipe Orucuta
(F) Zulina Munoz TKO 4 Soledad Macedo
Rex Tso TKO 4 Wandee Singwancha
Denkaosan Kaovichit TKO 12 Ichal Tobida
David Sanchez TKO 2 Luis Carlos Leon
Miguel Gonzalez KO 7 Reginaldo Carvalho
Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr. UD 12 Roberto Sosa
(F) Maria Salinas UD 10 Dorely Valente
Edrin Dapudong KO 1 Gideon Buthelezi

FLYWEIGHTS

Pablo Carrillo KO 3 Felipe Zapata
Armando Santos KO 2 Herald Molina
Hernan Marquez UD 12 Carlos Tamara
Juan Purisima TKO 5 Renren Tesorio
Petchbarngborn Kokietgym UD 12 Ardin Diale

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

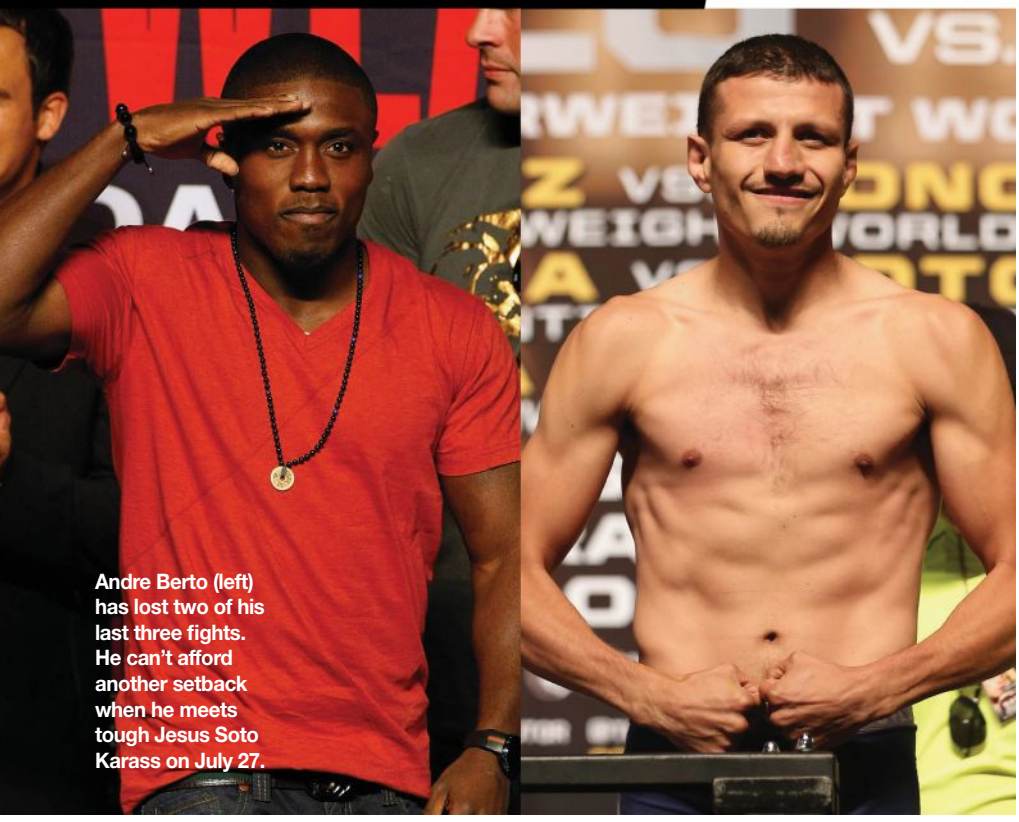
Carlos Buitrago UD 8 Jose Aguilar
(F) Jessica Chavez UD 10 Yesica Yolanda Bopp
Gilberto Parra KO 3 Jesus Limones
Jose Zuniga UD 12 Luis Ceja

STRAWWEIGHTS

Wanheng Menayothin TKO 10 Raul Pusta Jr.
Ryuji Hara UD 10 Shuhei Ito
Hekkie Budler SD 12 Nkosinathi Joyi

COMING UP

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.



Andre Berto (left) has lost two of his last three fights. He can't afford another setback when he meets tough Jesus Soto Karass on July 27.

JULY

ISHE SMITH vs. CARLOS MOLINA

Date: July 19, 2013
Location: Las Vegas
Division: Junior middleweight (for Smith's IBF title)
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★
Significance: Smith (25-5, 11 KOs), who had all but given up on his career and himself not long ago, outpointed Cornelius Bundrage to win his first title on an emotional night. Molina (21-5-2, 6 KOs), coming off a one-sided decision over Cory Spinks, is getting his overdue first title shot.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Molina UD; *Fischer* – Smith SD; *Satterfield* – Molina SD.

ANDRE BERTO vs. JESUS SOTO KARASS

Date: July 27, 2013
Location: AT&T Center, San Antonio
Division: Welterweight
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Diego Chaves vs. Keith Thurman, welterweights; Omar Figueroa vs. Nihito Arakawa, lightweights
Significance: Berto (28-2, 22 KOs) is fighting to remain an elite fighter after suffering two taxing losses (to Victor Ortiz for his WBC title and Robert Guerrero) in his past three fights. Soto Karass (27-8-3, 17 KOs) is 3-4 in his past seven fights but gives almost every opponent hell.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Berto KO 10; *Fischer* – Berto SD; *Satterfield* – Berto KO 11.

DIEGO CHAVES vs. KEITH THURMAN

Date: July 27, 2013
Location: AT&T Center, San Antonio
Division: Welterweight
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Also fighting: Andre Berto vs. Jesus Soto Karass, welterweights; Omar Figueroa vs. Nihito Arakawa, lightweights
Significance: Berto-Soto Karass might be a higher-profile matchup but this one is more compelling. Chaves (22-0, 18 KOs) and Thurman (20-0, 18 KOs) are a combined 42-0, with 36 knockouts. Fireworks are guaranteed. Chaves has fought only once outside his native Argentina.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Thurman KO 7; *Fischer*– Thurman UD; *Satterfield* – Thurman KO 9.

JULY 13 – Denis Grachev vs. Edwin Rodriguez, light heavyweights, Monte Carlo. In Hull, England, Kell Brook vs. Carson Jones, welterweights; Lee Selby vs. Viorel Simion, featherweights; and Luke Campbell vs. TBA, bantamweights. In Dresden, Germany, Robert Stieglitz vs. Yuzo Kiyota, for Stieglitz's WBO super middleweight title. In Manila, Philippines, Merlito Sabillo vs. Jorle Estrada, for Sabillo's WBO strawweight title.

JULY 19 – Olusegun Ajose vs. Henry Lundy, junior welterweights, Salem, N.H. (ESPN2)

JULY 20 – Frankie Gomez vs. Demarcus Corley, junior welterweights, Indio, Calif. (Fox Sports Net). In London, Dereck Chisora vs. Malik Scott, heavyweights, and Carl Frampton vs. Fabian Orozco, junior featherweights.

JULY 21 – Johnriel Casimero vs. Mauricio Fuentes, for Casimero's IBF junior flyweight title, Manila, Philippines.

JULY 27 – Zou Shiming vs. Jesus Ortega, flyweights; Evgeny Gradovich vs. Mauricio Munoz, for Gradovich's IBF featherweight title; and Juan Estrada vs. Milan Melindo, for Estrada's WBO and WBA flyweight titles, Macau, China (HBO2).

AUGUST

DANIEL GEALE vs. DARREN BARKER

Date: Aug. 17, 2013
Location: Revel Resort, Atlantic City, N.J.
Division: Middleweights (for Geale's IBF title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★

Berto: Ethan Miller/Getty Images; Karass: Nick Laham/Golden Boy/Golden Boy/Getty Images

Significance: Geale (29-1, 15 KOs) is a very good all-around fighter with victories over capable Sebastian Sylvester, Felix Sturm and (in a rematch) Anthony Mundine over the past two years. The Aussie is making his U.S. debut. Barker (25-1, 16 KOs) gave Sergio Martinez some trouble but is limited.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Geale UD; *Fischer* – Geale UD; *Satterfield* – Geale UD.

AUG. 1 – Paulus Ambunda vs. Tomoki Kameda, for Ambunda's WBO bantamweight title, Cebu City, Philippines

AUG. 2 – Javier Fortuna vs. Luis Franco, featherweights (ESPN2)

AUG. 3 – Curtis Stevens vs. Saul Roman, middleweights; Eddie Chambers vs. Thabisco Mchunu, cruiserweights; Tomasz Adamek vs. Tony Grano, heavyweights, Uncasville, Conn. (NBC Sports Net)

AUG. 9 – Shinsuke Yamanaka vs. Jose Nieves, for Yamanaka's WBC bantamweight title; Akira Yaegashi vs. Oscar Blanquet, for Yaegashi's RING and WBC flyweight titles, Tokyo

AUG. 16 – Andrzej Fonfara vs. Gabriel Campillo, light heavyweights, Chicago (ESPN2)

AUG. 17 – Juergen Braehmer vs. Stefano Abatangelo, light heavyweights; Arthur Abraham vs. Willbeforce Shihepo, super middleweights, Schwerin, Germany

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— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

FROM THE ARCHIVE

THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine. For more archive photos, go to our website — RingTV.com — or scan the QR code.

HIGH DRAMA: Rocky Marciano's perfect record was never in more jeopardy than it was in this RING Fight of the Year against Ezzard Charles (left) on Sept. 17, 1954, at Yankee Stadium. A cut on Marciano's nose was so severe that the fight was in danger of being stopped in the middle rounds. The champ responded by putting Charles down twice in the eighth, the second time for a 10-count. Marciano was losing badly on the cards at the time of the stoppage.

AT THE FIGHTS

1.

2.

3.

1. Erik Morales (second from left) is pictured with (from left to right) Ramon Villarruel, Jose Villarruel and Erick Villarruel. 2. Joe Velasco (right) with Abner Mares. 3. Eddie Ramos (left) with Marcos Maidana. 4. Richard Santiago (right) with Marlon Starling at the Hall of Fame. 5. Fernando Seda (right) with Virgil Hill at the Hall of Fame. 6. Dominick (left) and Al Iannocone Jr. with Yuri Foreman. 7. Christopher Campanelli (center) with Michael (left) and Leon Spinks at Graziano's restaurant during Hall of Fame weekend. 8. Wendy Heinzelman with Sergio Martinez.

4.

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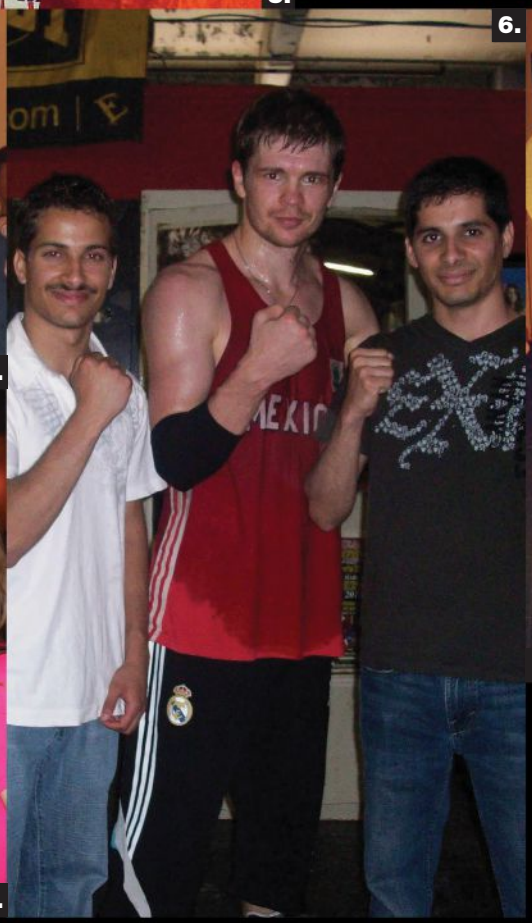
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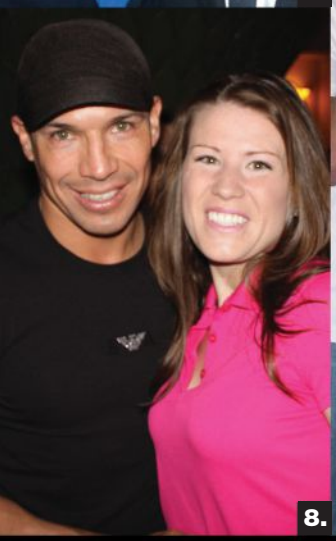
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Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!

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